



Mr. James Parry

Printed for John Lever, at little Moorgate,
next to London Wall, near Moorfields.



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THE TRUE
A N T I - P A M E L A :
OR,
MEMOIRES
OF
Mr. JAMES PARRY,
Late Organist of Ross in HEREFORDSHIRE.
In which are inserted,
His AMOURS with the Celebrated
Miss — of MONMOUTHSHIRE.
Written by HIMSELF.

In Two PARTS Complete.

PART I. MEMOIRS of his LIFE and AMOURS.

PART II. A journal of his Adventures in a cruise
against the Spaniards, on board the Revenge priva-
teer, Capt. Wimble. With his Genuine LETTERS
of Love and Gallantry.

In TWO VOLUMES.

Beware the dangerous beauty of the wanton ;
Shun their enticements ; ruin, like a vulture,
Waits on their conquests : falsehood too's their busines ;
They put false beauty off to all the world ;
Use false endearments to the fools that love them :
And when they marry, to their silly husbands
They bring false virtue, broken fame and fortune.

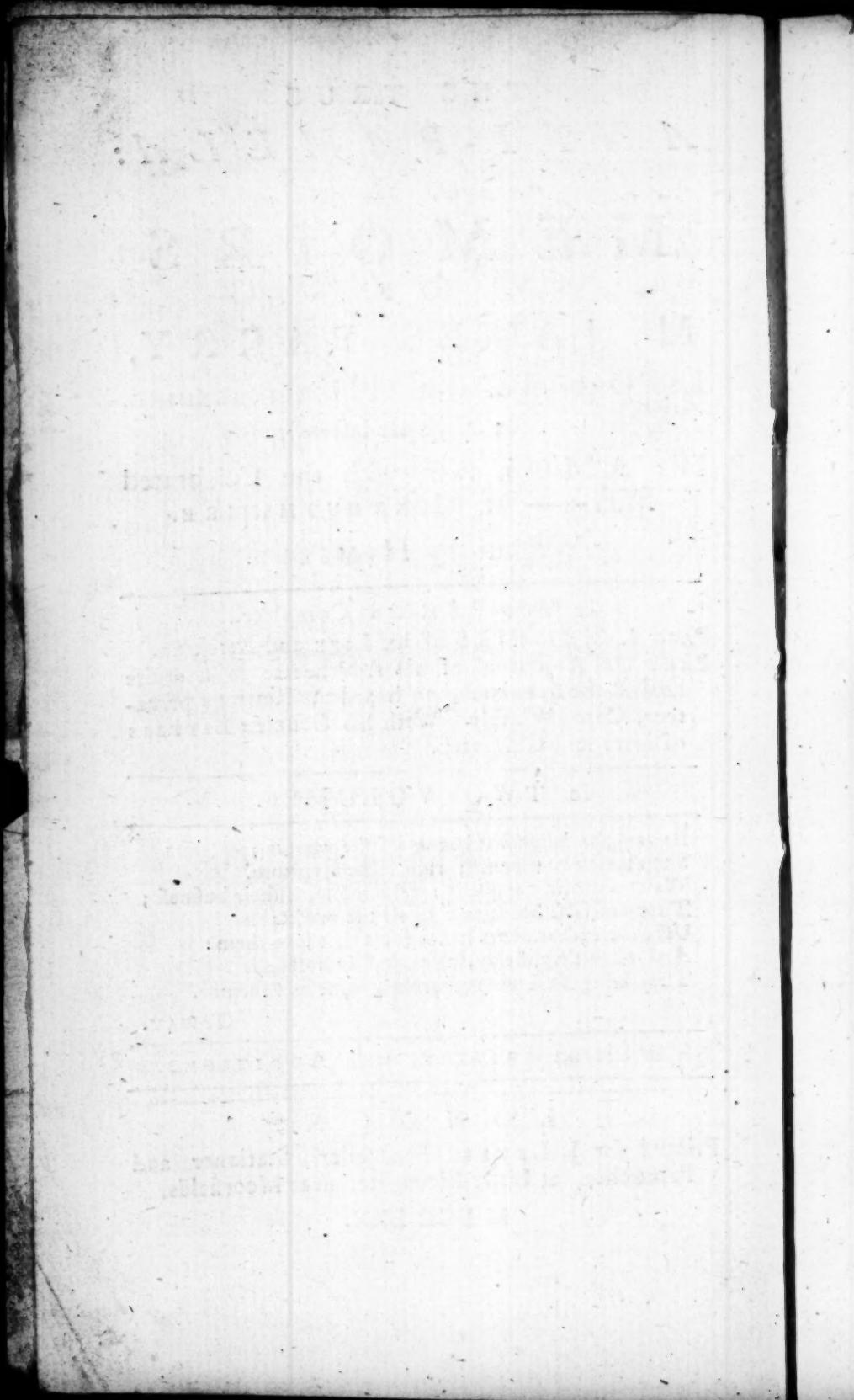
OTWAY.

The Second EDITION, with ADDITIONS.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. LEVER, Bookseller, Stationer and
Printseller, at Little Moorgate, near Moorfields.

M DCC LXX.



TO

Dr. G A L E N.

S I R,

O F all persons on earth, I think I ought in justice to dedicate the following sheets to you; in the first place, for the many singular favours I received from a near relation of yours. Secondly, for your kind treatment of my booksellers, by threatening to prosecute them for printing my life, if it should any way reflect on the characters of any person or persons of your virtuous family. Thirdly, your laying in wait for me, attended by a ruffian (or fellow-companion) knocking me down, and borrowing my hat

A 2

and

iv DEDICATION.

and cutteau (without my consent) are such instances of your goodness towards me, that it will be impossible to erase them out of my memory ; and the many singular favours I received from your relations in Monmouthshire, by putting me in Monmouth jail (for kissing Parthenissa) convinces me, that you would be willing to serve me in the same way, if it lay in your power, as long as I live, &c.

As for fine language or wit, it must not be expected from me, both for my want of capacity and education ; but you will peruse in these Memoirs Truth, and that without disguise.

As for the warm expressions used in the letters, &c. as most were writ by the above-named lady, surely you will forgive them, because I was willing to have them printed exactly as they were written. I own my want of education was a great hindrance in my amour at first ; but I afterwards supplied myself with books, so that I retained several passages in my memory, and used them as I thought most convenient.

If

DEDICATION. v

If Pamela is a virtuous character, I think Anti-Pamela (alias Parthenissa) the reverse. For Pamela, a poor innocent virgin, withstood all the attacks of a person of fortune; the reverse, Anti-Pamela, is rich, and kept me for her pleasure several years, still leading me on with the thoughts of marrying me, till I was almost ruined, and then she jilted me.

I should have printed it before now, but my friends might look upon it as wrote out of revenge, for being disappointed, which I do assure you it was not. I wrote it entirely to set the truth in its proper light, without regard to any interest in the world; and, I think, I have been very sparing of her character, as several persons that are now living can testify.

Sir, as to your saying that the letters are counterfeit, I entirely deny it; for I can bring several letters that she wrote to divers persons, to testify they are genuine. But when a lady has once lost her virtue, she will stick at

A 3 nothing,

vi DEDICATION.

nothing, how false soever, to make
the world believe her virtuous; when,
alas! virtue is from her fled!

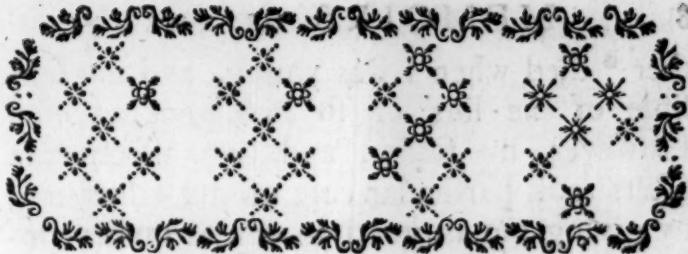
I am, Sir, Yours,

(As much as you are mine)

Revenge Privateer,
June 12, 1741.

JAMES PARRY.

M E-



M E M O I R S
O F T H E
L I F E
O F
JAMES PARRY.

S INCE that nothing but my unhappy amour with Miss —, whom I shall hereafter call Parthenissa, has obliged me to write these Memoirs, I shall give the reader some account of myself, from the day of my birth, until the fatal day that I got acquainted with her; and what evils accrued to me afterwards.

I was born in Carmarthen, (South Wales) upon Thursday the 20th of March, 1712. My father was a hair merchant; my mo-

8 MEMOIRS OF THE

ther * died when I was young, and not sensible of the loss of so indulgent an one. However, my father, and two affectionate sisters took particular care of my education, by giving me as good an one as our corporation would allow.

Nature was very favourable in giving me an exceeding fine voice; and by the time that I was eight or nine years of age, I became the talk of the country, and several gentlemen had thoughts of desiring Sir Richard Steel (whom I often had the honour to entertain in private) to recommend me to Drury-lane house; but how they came to drop their resolution, I cannot determine. I had, at that time, the honour of waiting upon the right rev. Dr. Smallbroke's (then lord bishop of St. David's) daughters weekly; I cannot say to teach them; however, to sing psalms with them; and his lordship always gratified me in a generous manner.

At twelve years old, I went to Bristol; and after a great many fair promises from some of the cathedral, I was bound an apprentice to Mr. Nathaniel Preist, the then organist. The dean and chapter were to allow me cloaths, and paid my master the salary for me, which was twice the sum that was given to any boy before me. I had frequently crowns and half crowns given me before

* Whose maiden name was Lewis, each parent being descended from the most ancient family of their names in Cardiganshire.

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 9

before I was bound to my master ; but when once I had signed my indentures, I found them (I mean the clergy) tired of putting their hands in their pockets ; excepting Dr. Harcourt, that worthy gentleman, was my real friend.

I was soon famous in Bristol, for my fine voice, and people came from all parts of the city, to hear me sing ; and those that did not know me would ask the next stander-by, which is the Welch boy ? for that was the name I was best known by ; and some honoured me so far as to add the famous to it. And upon Sundays I have known the choir so thronged, that it has not been in the sexton's power to open pews for the gentlemen and ladies.

When a concert of any consequence was to be performed at Bath, my master would be sent for, and me along with him ; and though he was paid for my performance, he would take money from me, which had been privately given me by persons of quality, &c. Nay, he has taken shillings, and even sixpences from me ; and when I found his ususage to be such, I was fully determined to be even with him, and I own I have had a great many pounds unknown to him ; but it was given me ; and I did not care how lavish I was of money, for I very well knew, if my master had heard of my having money, or seen any with me, I was sure to be deprived of it immediately.

A 5

By

By the time I had been at Bristol two years, I began to be very ill used, both by the dean and chapter, and my master. First I was informed, that if I wanted cloaths, I might buy them myself, for I had got money enough to furnish myself. Secondly, my master would not teach me the harpsichord, which was the only thing I ardently wished for. I often complained to the rev. Dr. Harcourt of it, and he asked my master, why he did not teach me to play, as well as the rest? the only excuse that he could make the doctor, was, that playing would take me off my singing; and that it would be time enough for me to learn to play, when my voice was breaking, or broke. The doctor believed him, but my master dissembled; and the reason was this.

He had parted with his own wife, and went to live with a widow woman. She had a son, whom my master took an apprentice for nothing, the same day that another and myself were bound with money. This woman (finding that I got twenty shillings to her son's one) hated me worse than a quaker does a parrot, and did (as she had the greatest influence over him) all that lay in her power to make him hate me. She carried her point; for he would by no means teach me the harpsichord.

His complaisance in one case I will not omit. Knowing my voice to be so good, and having some years to serve him, he advised

vised me to be castrated ; telling me, that no one could force me to it, the laws of the land being severe against such proceedings ; but that if I would give my consent, there was Dr. Rouffe the anatomist, and Mr. Sam. Pye the surgeon, who would perform the operation upon me, with the utmost safety and secrecy ; and for that purpose, there should a house be taken for me up at Kingswood ; and (added he) you will ride in your coach when you go from me, and be worth thousands.

I had a first cousin, a noted watch-maker at Bristol, whose name was Lewis, and he backed my master's discourse ; telling me, if I would consent to be so served, he would give me a gold repeating watch, worth fifty pounds ; and at the same time, he shewed me a chapter in one of the evangelists, where some verses run thus : " Some are born eunuchs of women ; some are made eunuchs by men ; and some make themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake ; they that can bear, let them bear."

I gave both my master and cousin the hearing, and told them I would consider of it ; so they went out together. Whilst my master, &c. were talking to me, a young gentlewoman, of about seventeen years of age, overheard them, and the moment their backs were turned, she gave me such strong reasons for not suffering myself to be made an eunuch, as dissuaded me entirely from it ;

A 6 . that

that had it been in my master's power to have given me mountains of gold to make me one, I would have refused him ; and the first time I met my kinsman, I called him a canting villain, and that he might keep his repeating watch, and be da—d, for that I was resolved to part with nothing with which the almighty had created me. The result of our discourse, I imagine, he communicated to my master, for I heard nothing more upon that subject.

About January, 1726-7, Sir Thomas Grosvenor, of Cheshire, Bart. came to Bristol, and after he had heard me sing, sent for me to his lodgings ; and when I had sung him two or three songs, he gave me a guinea, and asked me if I would part with my master, provided he could buy my time out : I assured him in the affirmative ; for that my master did not do me the justice he was bound to do, by his not teaching me the harpsichord. Sir Thomas assured me, that if he could by any means have me, I should not want the best masters of all Italy. He sent for my master, and asked him what he would take for my time ; my master told him, he would not take a farthing less than five hundred guineas : Sir Thomas offered him a very considerable sum at first, but my master persisted in the five hundred guineas : then Sir Thomas bid him more, and desired that he would consider of it ; so my master came home, and asked

asked me if I was willing to go with Sir Thomas; I assured him I was, and that it was my opinion it would be better for both of us: "Go when you will (says my master) I will have the money I asked him." I went from my master to Sir Thomas's lodgings (for he had given me leave to sing to him, or any one he should desire) and the first thing he said to me was, "My dear child, I am afraid your master has no mind to part with you, by his asking such a large sum of money; I have offered him what I would not give for any other boy in England besides yourself; I'll offer him money once more, and if he refuses it, it will be his own fault." Sir Thomas (observing tears in my eyes whilst he spoke to me) bid me not be uneasy, for I should not live with Mr. Preist, let the event be what it would; so he gave me a guinea, and bid me come to him every day.

I was not born to be so happy as to go with Sir Thomas Grosvenor, for there came an express to him the last night that I was with him; it came soon after I went from his lodgings, and, to my sorrow, I never saw him more, for he went away next morning by break of day, and the moment I heard of it, I thought my heart would have burst; I told my master of it with tears in my eyes, and he (after having stood some time confounded) said, if he is gone it cannot be helped; but I took care of the money

money Sir Thomas gave me, and my master had but half a piece in all from me.

I gave (as you will find) my master cause enough (this year) to repent his refusing the money offered by Sir Thomas Grosvenor. This summer, to me, was like unto the last; for I had nothing to do but sing, and trifle away my money.

I got into my seat one day sooner than usual: just before prayers began, the sexton brought a young lady into the choir, and put her into a pew that was next to mine. The lady was about seventeen; she was the loveliest creature I had ever seen; I thought her an angel; no one can judge the sudden emotions of my heart at the sight of her;—I went home sick, and was taken very ill with a violent pain in my head, insomuch that I was incapable of going to evening prayers: however, the thoughts of seeing her next day revived me. As I wished, so it fell out; the lady was there before me, and my eyes glutted themselves with looking at her. As she came to prayers constantly, and betimes, so I was determined not to be behind-hand with her; and one day (when there was scarce three besides ourselves) she offered me her snuff-box, to take a pinch of snuff: no prince did ever receive a crown with greater pleasure, than I did the box; I returned it to her immediately, making her the best bow I was master of. I now thought myself as happy

as a monarch ; and every day, for the space of a fortnight, I was sure to be there, to beg a pinch of snuff, and I was as sure to have the box given me under my surplice sleeve, which I would lay over the partition of the seat that parted us.

She missed coming to church two days successively, which drove me almost distract-ed ; and on one of the days (being to sing a solo anthem) I burst into tears before I had sung six words, to the great surprize of the whole choir : my master was resolved to whip me severely for it, but I was before-hand with him, by running to Dr. Harcourt, and telling him, I had heard, just before prayers began, that my father was dead. This lie saved me ; the lady came to church next day, and I was all alive, and merry ; I had nothing now left to do, but (as I knew where she lodged) to get into her company, which I effected in the following manner.

Being one day in the College Green, and having some words with a boy, bigger than myself, he called me a Welch son of a b—h ; that language put my Welch blood up, I own ; I flew at him, and a battle ensued ; I was vanquished by a fall, which bruised my right elbow in such a manner, that I was unable to move my arm.

This accident (as it happened) I was not sorry for, since it gave me the opportunity of going to the young lady's lodgings (at one Mr Symes's) for a plaster ; I knocked

at the door, and a comely middle-aged lady opened it : she was so exceedingly well dressed, that I was ashamed to ask for Mrs. Symes, and was just going to ask her pardon, under pretence that I had mistaken the house ; she asked me who I would speak with ? With Mrs. Symes, madam, says I. Pray step in, says the lady ; so I advanced four or five steps into the entry. Mrs. Symes (says the lady) is not at home, sir ; so I made her a bow, and was going out again ; but the lady, in a moment, slipped her hand under my arm, and said, " Pray walk with me into the parlour ; I saw you out of my chamber window, engage that hulky boy, and do believe that I can be of as much service to you, as if Mrs. Symes was at home." When we came into the parlour, she desired me to sit down, then called her maid, and bid her fetch a particular gallipot from the closet belonging to her room ; the maid brought it, and she was pleased to dress my arm. As soon as she had pinned up some linnen round it, she was pleased to say, " Sir, my daughter has given me an extraordinary character of your singing, and if you will be pleased to favour me with a song, I shall desire no farther fee from you, 'till I have made a cure of your arm." I thanked her for the care she was pleased to take of me, and was going to begin a song, but was struck with an agreeable surprize, to see her most beautiful daughter come in-

to

to the room, who (the moment she saw me) started, and cried, "Mamma, mamma, this is the dear little Welch boy, that sings so charmingly." I now thought myself as happy as a deity; I sung three songs, and the bell toll'd for prayers. At taking my leave, the lady put half a guinea into my hand, but I declined accepting of it, telling her, she had sufficiently paid me, by taking care of my arm; but she (resolving I should have it) put it into my coat pocket, and begged the favour of my company to supper. "Indeed, mamma, (says the beautiful daughter) he shall come, for I will stay at the college door 'till he comes out, but I will bring him along with me." The young lady was as good as her word; so I went home with her, stayed 'till supper, sat down to cards, and there made a night of it, i. e. stayed 'till twelve o'clock.

The reader may wonder how an apprentice, that had not served half his time, could be allowed to keep such late hours. To this I answer; My master (to please the widow he lived with) would not let me lodge in his house, but took a lodging for me in the Lower Green, at a woman's who supplied the place of sexton at the Guant's church. I could keep what hours I pleased, and she would never tell my master, because I always had money, and made her several presents, to prevent her so doing. But whether my master acted the part of an
honest

honest man, I leave the unprejudiced reader to determine: however, he cared for me as much as I did for him, as you will find in the end; and all through the means of the aforesaid widow. By this time, I got such an intimacy with the lady and her daughter, that (except prayer and bed-time) I was not out of their lodgings; and the signs given me by the most charming of her sex, the young lady, when to come there in a morning, was as follows, viz. I was to walk in the large walk of the Green, between eight and nine in the morning; if the curtains of the window were close, then she was in bed; if they were half open, she was going to rise; but if they were quite open, she was surely up, and dressing herself.

No one on earth lived happier than myself, having all my soul could wish, excepting the love of my master; but I lived better than he did, having the choicest of every thing Bristol afforded; I breakfasted, dined, and supped with the lady, daily. My master was at no expence for my eatables that summer; and if the ladies went out to dine, I was welcome to any dainties, that Mr. alderman Becher's, and Thomas Coftor, Esq; houses afforded, their good ladies being always fond of hearing me sing.

Being one day walking with the young lady, I took the freedom of asking her of her country and family. " Jemmy (says she) I wondered at your long silence upon
this

this subject; you must know then, that my pappa is a man of fortune, and a great gamester, well known at Tom's coffee-house, Covent-garden, London; his name is D—g, and owns P—t—n, and P—t—n—passage, in Gloucestershire (one Martin Inman keeps it); my mamma was a goldsmith's daughter in Lombard-street; my eldest brother Tommy is a cornet in the duke of Argyle's regiment of horse; my pappa has lost most of his estates among gamesters, and is, among them, known by the name of beau D—g. Pappa, at last, had the good fortune to get an estate of colonel Percival in South Carolina, about thirty miles from Charles-Town, known by the name of the Ponds, or Weston-Hall, in the parish of Dorchester; one esquire Skeene is our steward there; and my pappa has ordered my mamma, and myself, with two young brothers, George and Ben. (who are coming from Uxbridge, where they have been at school some time) to go over to Carolina. The ship we are to go in belongs to sheriff Jeffreys, and we expect to sail in about six weeks."

This frank information of her's both pleased and troubled me, and she (seeing me not so easy in my temper as usual) asked me what ailed me? " You need not ask me, madam (says I) what ails me, after you have told me of your going to Carolina." " If we do go (says she) I hope you will go

go with us, and if you do, you shall live as I do, and have as much care taken of you, as if you was heir to pappa's estate."

" That, madam (says I) would be too great a blessing to expect; but as this is an affair that, in a great degree, concerns my welfare for ever, I must beg leave to suspend giving you my answer, until such time as your ship is just going to sail." " Nay (says the beautiful lady) the sooner you let us know, the better it will be, because we shall provide sea linnen, and bedding for you; you very well know (added she) the respect I have for you, and have always shewn you. After all, I hope, and persuade myself, you will not stay behind."

Now my master's ill usage came fresh into my memory; his neglecting to instruct me, and in preferring one before me, for the sake of an ordinary woman, who was not worthy of it. Then the severe drubbing-bouts I unjustly have had for that boy's sake, appeared fresh to me: and last of all, his refusing some hundreds of pounds from Sir Thomas Grosvenor for the remaining part of the time I had to serve him: all these, I say, put together, brought no thought into my mind but that of revenge.

His majesty's coronation being fixed upon the 11th of October, I was resolved to be as fine as the best, I mean as to a coronation knot, and desired Miss D——g to chuse me out an extraordinary one. She complied with

with my request, and bought me one which cost her half a guinea, at Mrs. Tipton's, in Wine-street. No boy had (I believe) a handsomer, and I wore it with as much pride as if it had been a leek upon St. David's day. I acquainted miss, that I was to sing three solo anthems; and she took care to be as fine as the best, having on a rich diamond necklace and crosier, diamond ear-rings and drops, several upon her fingers, among which one of a single stone that cost an hundred guineas.

I thought she looked like a comet among common stars, and could not forbear making the following reflection, whilst in the choir: Poor Nat! (meaning my master) little dost thou think that I am going to leave thy servitude, and that I shall accompany the fairest of human creatures into a strange world; and I had rather be with her among Indians and Negroes, than in the finest palaces with thee. Now I shall give thee reason to wish, that thou hadst parted with me for money offered, &c.

This was the last day that I sung a single anthem; and notwithstanding what I have said concerning giving my master the go-by, I could not determine with myself what to do. But at last he put the finishing stroke to my scruples, by taking the other boy to Bath to sing at a concert, when I myself was sent for by the name of the Welch boy. This struck me to the soul, and I swore by heaven

MEMOIRS OF THE
heaven he should never receive a farthing be-
nefit by me after that week.

Miss D——g sent for me, and told me, the ship was to sail down next day to King-road, and from thence immediately to sea without stopping ; and now was the time to fix the manner of my escape. We contrived it in the following manner.

As the ship was to unmoor at the Quay exactly at nine o'clock in the morning, Mrs. D——, miss, three young gentlemen, woman, and maid servant, likewise Mr. Bolt, who was Mr. D——'s gentleman, were all (and some friends that went to attend them down the water) to go in the long-boat prepared for them ; they were to put off at ten o'clock. There was a yaul and four men to wait for me at eleven o'clock, down at the Lime-kilns, because if I had missed morning prayers, I should have been detected immediately. Another caution was, that I should not bring any apparel with me, but those I had about me. The plot was as well laid as could be wished ; so after staying until twelve o'clock, I went home to my lodgings, but had not a moment's rest that night.

The next day (being Saturday, I think it was the 11th of November 1727) a great number came to take their leave, wishing them all a prosperous voyage (among the rest you may be sure that I was one) and after saluting the old and young lady with tears in my eyes, by virtue of an onion, I went to

prayers, and they down the river after the ship.

During prayers, my heart beat pit-a-pat, and every limb of me trembled. I sung as if one had had a dagger at my throat. As soon as prayers were over, I put off my surplice with all the calmness imaginable, lest if I had been in a hurry, I should have been mistrusted; and to put a better gloss upon my design, I walked in the Green about fifteen minutes, in sight of several who belonged to the cathedral.

I had on a fustian frock with black velvet sleeves, and a white waistcoat, and nothing else but what I usually wore; so walked out of the Green, and afterwards ran as fast as I could to the place, where the men impatiently waited for me with the small boat. I immediately jumped into the boat, and they put off in a moment. After looking behind me a thousand times, we lost sight of Bristol. We did not overtake the ship (which was called the Two Friends) until she was in the mouth of Kingroad. The merchant (sheriff Jeffreys) was in her, and the moment I was on board I was beckoned into the great cabin, where Miss D——g was. I was once more pensive, and said, "What signifies my going, Miss? I may as well go back with 'Squire Jeffreys in his boat to Bristol; I cannot be of any great service to you, and you know I am of service at the cathedral." But she gave me such strong reasons for going with her,

her, that nothing but main force could have prevailed upon me to go back again. She made me stay in the cabin while she went upon deck, where was the old lady, and all of them.

By this time, those that were to go on shore took their leaves of every one in the ship, especially Mr. Jeffreys. All the boats put off, and now I was out of danger. We did not cast anchor, but made down the channel immediately, so that by this time my heart was as light as a cockle.

Our commander's name was Whitefield; our ships burden was three hundred tun, and never was a merchantman better provided with provisions. We (I mean our family) had a large quantity of turkeys, ducks, geese, common fowls, and peacocks; we had likewise a large quantity of Gloucester cheese, and salt butter. Then, as to liquors, we had eighteen hogsheads of bottled cyder and beer on board, besides brandy, rum, and a sufficient quantity of Hot-well water. We had not gone three leagues before we all fell sea-sick: Miss, and myself, were by much the sickest; our sustenance for sixteen days was nothing but chicken broth. In three weeks we were tight upon our legs, had stomachs like hawks, and to do ourselves justice, we fetched up our lost time, by eating three or four meals a day, and a supper at night.

I shall

I shall not pretend to write the ship's journal, that being entirely out of my sphere, but shall give a small account, how (whom I call now) our family managed. As soon as we were under sail from Bristol, Mrs. D—g fell to cutting some pieces of check, which she had bought on purpose to make me some shirts, so that in a week's time I had half a dozen compleat. She had given captain Whitefield twenty guineas for the great cabin and state-room. The mother and daughter lay there; the lady's woman and maid lay in a little cabin; the three youngkers and myself lay in hammocks, which we slung and unslung in the great cabin night and morning, before the maids went to bed and rose again; Mr. Bolt lay in a little cabin in the steerage built on purpose. Thus our family were exceedingly well lodged, and I was put into commission immediately, viz. steward of the eatables and drinkables; there was nothing but what went through my hands, except the ship's victuals and drink, we having nothing to do with that. My chief business was to toast the biscuit, and butter them for the ladies breakfast, Miss's, and of course my own; every one else to manage for themselves. I had a boy to carry the tea-kettle fore and aft; I had likewise the same boy to feed the poultry, of which we had plenty; and I never wanted hands (as there was eight transports on board) to pluck my fowls, and make them ready for the pot or spit; for

every one knew, that who ever obliged me never wanted for a dram, cheese, butter, or any thing our stock afforded. Now and then, when the crew wanted a sea pye (which is made of fowl, pork, beef, basket, flower and herbs, besides water) it was only speaking me fair, and I would tell them they might dispatch such a turkey, or such a goose in the middle watch of the night, and bring it me in the morning, as if it had died a natural death. Nothing was more punctually obeyed than my orders ; one or other of the crew would take hold of the fowl fixed upon, and thrust a packing needle (with which they mend their sails) into its ears, and kill it instantly. I was always the first who was made acquainted with the fowl's death ; then I would acquaint the lady, who would bid me fling it over board, upon which the boatswain, or some of the crew, would beg it for a pye. There was no occasion for twice asking ; and by this means we had half a dozen in the voyage. I own I loved sea pye as well as any of them, and so did Miss, after she had seen me eat some, or else the Jack Tarrs would not have had six in a passage ; and they did not dare kill any without my privity, because I knew the trick : but indeed they had no occasion, for I was easily prevailed upon.

We had a pleasant voyage for the space of five weeks ; all the crew, as well as ourselves, alive and merry ; our family spent the time

in

in nothing but merriment, and every Saturday night I gave a quantity of rum, brandy and sugar (which was bought for that purpose) to each mess in the ship, in order to make flip to drink to the welfare of their wives, &c. We passed the evening at cards, &c. And now we wanted nothing but to see Carolina, which by the captain's reckoning was near, or quite up. We saw it in five weeks and three days after we left Bristol, but the winds proving contrary, we were nine weeks before we got to Carolina Bar, all our fresh provision was gone, and brought at last to a pint of water *per diem*, and the lady was pleased to order a bottle of cyder between two each day, for six days together, till we anchored at the Bar's mouth. The first thing the captain ordered, was a gun to be loaded, in order to fire for a pilot: I was willing to hear a loud report after three weeks ranging at sea off the coast; so while the fellows were busy about letting down the anchors, I put about a hatful of musket balls into the cannon; I put in some oakum, and after rammed them as hard as I could. The captain, to prevent mischief, ordered a squib to the touch-hole, because the gun was a very peaceable one. The orders were obeyed, and while the squib was burning, every man took care of himself; when, of a sudden, the gun went off, and by the force of the charge, flung itself backwards, and broke the carriage in a hundred pieces. It was the loudest report

that was ever heard from any merchantman (well it might) and the pilot said, that the merchants of Charles-Town thought us to be a large man of war : but the minute we fired, the fort fired to the town, so that we were not long without a pilot. When we came over the Bar, and near the fort, our captain went on shore to the fort (as is usual) in order to acquaint the governor, who and what we were. The governor a (Scots gentleman) came on board with our captain, and brought fresh provisions, wine, and what most delighted me, viz. minced pyes. Miss, the three young gentlemen, and myself, eat, who could eat fastest ; and I believe never did peal of bells move with more regularity than did our jaws ; and had not the good old lady put a stop to the movement of them, by taking away what pyes were left from us, we should have eat on, perhaps, till we had brought a surfeit upon us. She gave each of us a glass of surfeit water, after we had stuffed ourselves, to prevent our being out of order.

That night, we landed at Charles-Town, and lay at colonel Bruinton's. By break of day I got up, and ran all over the town, and was very much surprised to see nothing but a multitude of negroes, some singing, others dancing, &c. At last spying some sailors of my own colour, not a little delighted me, because I did not really know my way back to the place from whence I came.

After

After three or four days stay at Charles-Town, the family went up to their seat, which was called, The Ponds, otherwise Weston-Hall. The seat is by much the best in the province, and is built at the mouth of the river Ashely, which ends in three ponds. The house is more a fort, than a seat, being walled in, and having a battery of twelve small pieces of cannon. The reason of its being so fortified, is, that it lies upon the very borders of the settlements (between the Carolinians and the Indians) and they are obliged to secure themselves, lest the wild Indians should make excursions upon them; but the report of a cannon frightens the Indians to that degree, that they seldom care to come within a league of any place where any cannon are planted.

It would be needless for me to give an account of the country, being incapable of such an undertaking. But, to me, the country was the most delightful in the world, abounding with every thing very plentiful. I lived like a petty king, passing away my time in the best families of the province; particularly, at Charles Hill's, Esq; colonel William Bull's, and Mr. Whittaker's, the (then) king's attorney general. The ladies and families circumjacent to Charles-Town (and those gentlemens seats before-mentioned) would come to hear me sing, insomuch that every body spake of me, and I had handsome presents made me by several in paper money, which there is current. But a curse attended my

happiness here, as well as elsewhere ; and, in order to let the reader know in what manner, I must give an account what happened at Bristol, after my escape from thence.

My not being at prayers, the day we set sail, gave an immediate alarm to those that belonged to the cathedral, that I was either sick, or had given them the slip. The choiristers were sent to my lodgings, and elsewhere, in search of me, but to no purpose ; the bird was flown. The first welcome news my master had when he came from Bath, was, Sir, the Welch boy has been absent since yesterday, and has not been since heard off ; and to clinch the truth of it, a person assured them, that I was met in the river, and in a boat rowed by four men.

My master stormed and swore, when he heard the news, but that availed him but little. Putting me in the news-papers would have been of no manner of signification, because I was on ship-board ; so that he had no remedy, but that of fretting ; and though he did not value me (for the widow's sake) when with him, yet he missed me, when gone ; and, as soon as he found out where Captain Whitefield's wife lived, he went and bullied the poor woman, telling her, he would make her husband pay five hundred pounds for taking me away, and that an action should be clapped upon his back the moment he came home. In short, this and some opprobrious language, affrighted the poor unhappy woman

woman to that degree, that she fell ill, and died soon afterwards. I have often since thought myself unhappy, for being the occasion of the death of that unfortunate person.

The next person that was talked to, was Mr. Jeffreys, the merchant (it being his ship in which I went.) In short, the confusion and noise made about me by the dean, the chapter, and my master was so great, that the merchants wrote several letters by way of London, to the merchants of Charles-Town, to take me up, and send me home to Bristol, by the first English ship that should happen.

Sir William Strickland, Bart. secretary of war, at the request of the honourable and reverend doctor Booth, the dean of Bristol, likewise sent orders to the governor of South Carolina, to take me up, and to send me to England by the first ship that should sail.

These letters arrived in Carolina (the way above-mentioned) three weeks, - or near it, before our ship, by reason of our long passage; and I remember Charles Hill, Esq; (the merchant to whom the goods on board were consigned) came on board, and asked me a great many questions. I little thought of returning to England so soon as I did; and one day in particular, I met captain Whitefield, who smiled and said, Jemmy, there is captain Jennings, of the Old Carolina (a ship belonging to the same owners as mine) is bound to Bristol, will not you go on

board him, and give us a song ? Yes, says I, with all my heart ; so went on board, drank punch, and was very merry with them. Says captain Jennings to me, will not you write a letter to your master Priest ? Yes, says I, I will, wherein I shall let the dog know how well I live here ; not but I will send him a barrel of rice, and some rum by the next ship that sails from hence. I accordingly wrote a letter to my master, and gave it to captain Jennings, little thinking that I was to bear him company into England.

I took my leave of him, wishing him a prosperous voyage, &c. so took yaul, and went on shore.

Mrs. D——g all this while was settling her family affairs, and taking the care of the estate out of the hands of —— Skeene, Esq; who took the charge of it upon him, since the time that it became Mr. D——'s property. As for the rest of the family, they had nothing to do, but to take their pleasure. Our diversion was shooting, and riding about, the country ; and nothing, this side the grave could be happier than I was, having all my soul could wish. But, alas ! my felicity was come to its period in a short time, as you will immediately find.

The ship that I was to be taken in to England was to set sail in four or five days, and Charles Hill, the merchant, gave me an invitation to come to his country seat, which was about four miles from Charles-Town : I accord-

accordingly went there, and agreed to teach two of his daughters to sing (this was to prevent my mistrusting any scheme that was laid against me) I likewise some weeks before had taught colonel Bull's two daughters, viz. Elizabeth and Charlotte; so that I thought now of nothing but being established in the country. But herein I was mistaken, for upon the 22d of February, captain Whitefield, and six men, came to Mr. Hill's, laid hands upon me, and carried me to the boat, from thence down the river, and so on board the Old Carolina, which lay at anchor about a mile below Charles-Town. Mr. Hill's lady shed a great many tears at my being seised; and my heart was so full of sorrow, that it was some time before I could speak one word, or give my passion vent; so at last gave a loose to my passion, by calling Mr. Whitefield all the villains, rogues, and the worse language I could think of. He seeing me in such an agony, did all that lay in his power to make me easy; and then disclosed the whole affair to me, concerning what happened at Bristol after my leaving it, and the trouble that would befall him if I was not delivered back. As soon as captain Jennings came on board, he told me the same, and bid me not to be dissatisfied, for that I should live as well as he did in the passage. So far he made his words good. But what added to my grief, I was put in irons in the cabin that night, and the next morning the ship fell down

the river, when my irons were taken off. The captain (by a caution given by Whitefield) was apprehensive that I would have jumped over board, and so have swam to shore, had I not been secured. He certainly guessed right; but I was secured, and the moment we came to the open sea, I had my liberty again.

No pen is able to describe the anxieties I was in! the thoughts of going to Bristol (a place which my soul abhorred) and leaving Miss Winifred D——g, who was my heart's darling, behind me, almost distracted me. Had it been in my power, I would have given the world to have staid with her, whom I thought to be the most beautiful, inoffensive, and the best tempered young lady breathing. One instance of her good-nature I can never forget: one day (when she was at Bristol) she came home from paying a visit, and having her best ear-rings on, I wanted to see them out of her ears; she did not care to take them out, but I insisted upon it, and in taking them out, I lost one of the drops, which never could be found, and it cost her fifteen guineas to match the other. The harshest word that I had for losing the drop, was, naughty boy.

But I was born to be unfortunate, and now did not care what became of me. I often wished, that a Spanish guarda costa would come and attack us, and take us any where, rather than to Bristol: and I found a great deal

deal of difference between our outward-bound and homeward-bound passages, nor but that I lived as the captain did.

Having been by this time six weeks at sea, we were, by the captain's reckoning, in the English latitude. I was the first that spied land, which was the island of Lundy, which stood upon our larboard bow; and whilst I was eagerly looking at the island, a great wave broke over the head of the ship, which wetted me from my head to feet, and had like to have taken me over board. The sea water being naturally very warm, made me take but little notice of my being sluiced. I did not take my wet cloaths off so soon as I should have done, which occasioned my voice's breaking perhaps years sooner than it would have done.

In a day or two we moor'd our ship at Hungroad; captain Jennings ordered a boat and four men to go with me, and safely to deliver me to my master. Heaven knows how heavy-hearted I was, lest I should be-imprisoned (by the dean and chapter, and my master) during the remainder of my time. In short, one might have blown me down. My master was at dinner when the men took me to his house, and one went in to tell him of my arrival: he came out, where I stood trembling, and looked sternly upon me, asking me, how I could look him in the face, after using him in the manner I had done. I cried, but could say nothing for myself: well,

says he, your voice is breaking, and cannot hold long, and as you have served me in the vile manner you have done, I will have no more to say to you; stay and dine, and come to-morrow for your indentures, and you are free to go wherever you please. I thanked him with all my soul, and did not stay to dinner, came next day, and parted mutually, to my great satisfaction; for had he taken me again, I should have led a miserable life, and have been kept entirely in ignorance.

But after all, was not this an inhumane, monstrous, and scandalous proceeding, to make such an uncommon stir about me, when abroad, and to have me brought back from a country several thousand miles distant, where I was respected, and might have done very well, and at last to leave me at my own disposal? It was such an idle proceeding, that a reasonable man would have been ashamed of. However, I was satisfied, and had nothing to do with my master but to get my cloaths, &c. from him: to that end, I spake to Mr. Watkins, an attorney, who was so good as to get me all my moveables, except my surplus (by much the best among the singers) which the good widow took a fancy for, and fitted it up for her son.

Here I must acknowledge, before I go any farther, that I am more obliged to Mr. Knelm Rogers, the organist, and to the Rev. Mr. Samuel Rogers, his brother, for what little

I knew

I knew of music, than to my master, Mr. Nath. Priest.

As one misfortune commonly attends another, so it fell out with me; I had not been at Bristol above a week, but was taken ill of a violent fever and ague: I really thought it would have finished me. After taking a great deal of bark, and other slip-slops, I was advised to go to the Bath to drink the waters; which I did, and was with that, and other medicines, soon cured.

Bath was this season very full, by reason of the princess Amelia's being there; and I was of opinion some money was to be got, so resolved to make myself known to that friend of the distressed, R. Nash, Esq; which I accordingly did, who made me sing in several polite companies, whereby I got money considerably, particularly from his grace the present duke of Norfolk.

The particular obligations I owe my sincere friend, Mr. Thomas Chilcot, organist of Bath, shall never be erased out of my memory; for when I first came to Bath, sick, and not over-stocked with money, I was welcome to his house, to live as he did himself.

The Beggar's Opera had been out but the winter before, so that it had not been acted in the country: the Bath Company of Comedians had orders to get it up with all imaginable speed; accordingly the parts were written out, but not a soul of them could sing.

What

What to do they could not think of. They could meet with no body that could instruct them in the songs, though they had the particular advantage of having Mr. John Gay, the author, to teach them the action. Being upon the stage, whilst they were rehearsing, one of the musicians knew me: he ran, and told Mr. Hornby and Mrs. Power (heads of the company) that such an one (pointing to me) could teach the company the songs, if any one could; because (said he) he is an old dab at it. The company hearing this, came in a body to intreat me to teach them; and that they would each pay me, &c. which I did, in a short time, though something too cheap.

By this time my voice fell; yet I kept the upper part so strong and clear, that no person (unless they heard me speak) could distinguish it from my natural one. I sung between the acts, upon the stage, the first season, and was allowed a handsome premium for so doing. The Bath season being now over, the company removed to Bristol. They were as glad of me, as I was of them; so we all went together. Here I had thoughts of saving my money, in order to pay my passage back to Carolina; but was informed, by one of alderman D——g's family, that Miss D——g was drowned in a canoe, soon after I left Carolina, which drove me melancholly. It was some time before I recovered my spirits: but was informed to the contrary,

trary, some years after, by Dr. Capel, of Gloucester, when (to my sorrow) I was otherwise engaged.

The latter season coming on at Bath, the company returned thither; and, it is to be thought, I was not long behind them, having a strong aversion to Bristol.

In the interim, my eldest sister (who always had my welfare very much at heart) was in London, and hearing, by some family or other, of my return from abroad, and of my being at Bath among a company of players, she immediately set out from London, and came directly to Bath, where she soon found me out; and, after some persuasive arguments, took me with her to Bristol, and from thence to my native place, Carmarthen.

I had not been here long, before my sister writ to an acquaintance in London, about placing me with some noted organist there. Mr. Robinson, organist of Westminster-Abbey, was the person spoke to. He, as I heard, writ to my old master for a character of me. Mr. Priest answered him, that I was a wild, roving, and an extravagant youth, &c. So that Mr. Robinson (and no one could blame him) would have nothing to do with me. But Mr. Priest forgot himself, when he writ to Mr. Robinson; and had he been alive at this time, I could have published a thing very much to his disadvantage. But I should scorn to do any thing unbecoming a man, and much more a christian.

My

My sister writ once more to London, about putting me out; and Mr. Francis Rowe (one of the gentlemen of the Chapel-Royal, Westminster, &c.) writ a letter to Mr. Henry Swarbrick (both of them having been formerly acquainted.) Mr. Swarbrick made no scruple of taking me upon the terms proposed by Mr. Rowe, so was ordered to Hereford, and my sister equipt me for the journey. I set out from Carmarthen the 6th, and was in Hereford the 8th of December, 1728. I soon found Mr. Swarbrick, not only a very good master, but a good-natured man; and had Mr. Priest done me as much justice, as Mr. Swarbrick did (the short time I was with him) without vanity I say it, I should have been as good a master as any of my standing. I lived very happily at Hereford; and whilst under Mr. Swarbrick's tuition, had the honour to be sent for to sing to the lady Scudamore (her grace the present dutchess of Beaufort) to the right Hon. the earl of Coningsby, and to the best in the country; in somuch, that I wanted pocket-money but seldom: and upon a horse-race time I was sent for to Shrewsbury, to sing at a concert, for the benefit of Mr. Morgan, a musick master. Here I went, as expressed in the bills, by the name of signior Perini, a gentleman lately come from Italy. A great many ladies, &c. thought, by my smooth face and shrill notes, that I really was equippe for the Opera-house; however, I got some pieces

pieces of gold by the bargain, and so returned to Hereford, where I staid twelve months, having had nothing extraordinary that happened to me.

After my having staid at Hereford a twelvemonth, I was preparing for my return to Carmarthen; but that journey was stopped, upon my hearing the news of the organist of Ross's death. This was immediately affirmed, by the coming over of Mr. Hill, a painter: and Mr. Swarbrick advised me to go over; telling me, he would write by me to doctor Bisce (brother to the late bishop of Hereford) and to doctor Morgan, the rector of Ross. I embraced the opportunity, and on the 8th of December, 1729, I went to Ross, where I found the town very much divided concerning an organist, because there was no fixed salary, as is usual, but one had been raised by subscription. However, I made the best of my way to doctor Bisce's, who instantly assured me of his friendship (he knowing me when at Bristol and Hereford) and recommended me, by letter, to doctor Morgan, as an organist. I waited upon him that day, who made me sensible, that the town was divided, and that he would leave the choice of an organist entirely to them: and at the same time advised me, to look out for a good place, where there was a certain salary. I took my leave of him, resolving not to make a fruitless journey,

journey, if I could by any method prevent it.

By the time that I had been there two days, every one knew my business; and some of the inhabitants (who used to go to Bristol fairs) remembered me, and wished that I might succeed. Accordingly, the 12th of December was fixed for the election, at which were present the principal inhabitants, who voted me in organist, *Vivâ Voce*, to the satisfaction of my friends; and particularly, to Parthenissa, who could not rest, as she afterwards informed me, 'till I was elected; and had sent messages to Mr. Nicholas Fisher, a chandler, begging, that he would let her know what time I was elected, and on what terms. Mr. Fisher complied with her request, and she was very much pleased.

This young gentlewoman (who is principally the subject of the following sheets) was very desirous of hearing me sing, and had been informed by some of the town girls, that I was equipt for the Opera-house. She sent for one Betty Fisher, in order to accompany her to see me, who at that time lodged at my predecessor's widow's, who had taught this young lady the spinnet. I was sitting by the parlour fire, when Betty Fisher and the lady came in; and, seeing them well dressed, made them a bow, and left the room, thinking that they had business with Mrs. Apperley, my landlady.

I went

I went and walked under the town-hall, and had not been there five minutes before my landlady called me, and made me soon sensible, that the visit made by the two ladies, was upon no other account, than that of mine. And (added she) the pale-faced young lady, with the brown hair (for they were both pale, and dressed alike) is Parthenissa; she is the greatest fortune in town, and that she intended to learn the spinnet of me, provided she could persuade her mamma to be at the expence. But, says Mrs. Apperley, she is very uneasy at your going out, and would be very much obliged to you if you would favour her with a song; and that the young lady, and Bet. Fisher, had asked her, if I was an eunuch. Mrs. Apperley said, she knew not. We have heard, says the inquisitive ladies, that he was made one in Italy, and we will ask him if he ever was there; and if he says, yes, then the report is most certainly true. I could not forbear laughing at what Mrs. Apperley related to me; and assured her, that if the ladies were inclined to make trial of me, they would be apt to find me man enough for them, though but in my teens. As I was asked, I went with Mrs. Apperley into the parlour, and sat opposite to Parthenissa, and eagerly gazed at her. I observed her to do the same at me. She broke silence, by asking me to sing. I readily complied; and, after I had sung her two or three songs, we went to cards (the game

game was whisk.) During our playing, I often observed Betty Fisher pull Parthenissa by the sleeve; till at last Parthenissa, with a smile, asked me, if I ever had been in Italy: Yes, madam (says I) but I thank my stars I came home as safe and sound as ever I was born. My answer confounded her; and, after playing three or four games, her servant came for her, and so brake up. After they were gone, my landlady asked me, which of the two I best liked; I gave my heart the lye, by telling her, Mrs. Fisher.

In January I took a ride to Bristol, to see some of my old acquaintance; and, among the rest, my old master. He, and the family (teeth outwards) professed themselves glad to see me. In February following, having liberty from the rector and churchwardens, I went to take my diversion in London for about a month; and, at my return, had the pleasure several times of seeing Parthenissa, who assured me, she would learn the spinnet of me, as soon as the month of May came in, her mother not caring to be at the expence of burning an unnecessary fire in the room where the instrument lay; and that, when it was summer time, there was no want of firing.

Quis talia fando temperet a Lacrymis.

Now begins my unhappy amour with Parthenissa, who was the only daughter of W——m P——l, Esq.

AS

As my amour with this young lady gave me an infinite deal of pleasure, for several years ; so, on the contrary, it has since given me a great deal of affliction. I heartily wish I could possibly suppress it, in order to remove some circumstances, which I would be glad (as well for my own sake, as her's) to forget eternally. But how is it possible to conceal an accident which has been made public round the countries circumjacent ? I have lost a good livelihood, by this unhappy affair ; as you'll find in the sequel of these Memoirs. Then the person (whom I adored and loved as my soul) had me imprisoned several months, very unjustly. Most in the country are, and I firmly am of opinion, that others will be convinced of what I assert. And what apology could I make to the public (particularly those of my acquaintance, in London, Oxford, Hereford, Bristol, Worcester, Gloucester, and the principality of Wales in general) should I be silent upon this occasion : especially, since I have promised to give a faithful account of my most minute actions ; particularly in my unhappy amour with Parthenissa : therefore, as it will be impossible for me not to mention it (after having been abuted and jilted in so scandalous a manner) I shall write the whole amour in full length ; and though I call to mind an unhappy affair, which has given me the greatest of anxieties, yet it will be of some consolation to me, to acquaint the public with the barbarous

barous usage that I have met met with from mine enemies, and the villainous manner with which thay have prosecuted me.

May the 1st, 1730, Mrs. P—— sent her servant (who is related to the family) for me. She had been at my lodgings, and some other places, to look for me, but was not to be met with. She then left word, at the King's-Arms, that her mistress desired to speak with me. I came that evening to the King's-Arms, and Mrs. K—— assured me, that she had good news for me, for that Mrs. P—— had sent for me, to teach her daughter music. I went immediately; and it was not long before we agreed for the teaching-price. Observing the instrument to be very much out of order, and the young lady not at home, I took my leave of the old one, telling her, I would wait upon miss in the morning. I was punctual; in the morning I strung and penned the instrument. Miss was, I thought, agreeably officious in helping me to cut the crow quills, and in fixing the strings; and, amongst other talk, how I liked Herefordshire, &c. She asked me, how I liked the Ross young women, but particularly those I had seen with her at Mrs. Morse, the milliner's. I assured her, that I thought it too hard a task to judge of stars in presence of the sun; at which she modestly blushed, and turned her face from me, and left the room for two or three minutes; and, when she returned, I put her some new music, in which

she

she made a very pretty progress, in a short time.

Instead of instructing her thrice a week (as by the mother's agreement) I came every day; and, one time in particular, she told me, that when Mr. Apperly, my predecessor, taught her, she always had her mamma, or the maid in the room; and, that her mamma had asked her, if she would have any body with her whilst I taught her; but she answered in the negative. Her frankness pleased me to a very high degree. I spent most of my time with her; and I not only thought her person equal to that of the beautiful Miss D——g (before-mentioned) but her conversation far more agreeable; so, in fact, I fell deeply enamoured of her.

Mrs. P—— would often ask me to dine and sup with them; I as often declined so doing, lest the old lady should be quick-sighted, and espy me gazing upon her daughter; for, do all I could, it was impossible for me to avoid it. In some short time, miss asked me, why I refused to dine and sup with her mamma, after I had been so often asked: "Mamma (adds she) takes it ill of you; and, if you refuse her again, I too will be angry with you." I thanked her; that I did not care to be so troublesome; that I would comply with any request of her's, for that I valued her good opinion more, or as much, as all the blessings of life. So from that time I dined often with them.

There

There was no man living that frequented the house besides myself; and I often brought the old lady, what she dearly loved, viz. news from town and country; and, when there was none stirring, I made some: and, to do myself justice, I never was at a loss. As the old lady seldom or never went out, but was constantly smoaking tobacco by the kitchen fire, there was no one to contradict me: if any of the visitors (girls) said any thing contrary to what I before spoke of, they were accounted liars; so far was I ingratiated in the family.

I commonly was there five or six hours a day (Sundays excepted) and when tired of playing, we would often chat upon several little subjects that happened uppermost, with the freedom of brothers and sisters. I grew fonder and fonder of her; insomuch, that I loved her as my life. Indeed, her looks told me, I was not disagreeable to her; so that, at length, my flame became unquenchable: yet I did not presume to discover my passion to her (knowing the inequality of our fortunes) lest I should have been banished her presence for ever. Thus we passed our time, gazing upon each other, and there was not any thing agreeable to me, but her presence. So far had love infatuated me.

I was obliged to be in Bristol the latter end of June. The day before I set out, I acquainted her with the necessity of my being there, and that I should be absent no more than

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 49

than six days. She appeared concerned at my going; and, after recovering herself a little, gave me strict charge not to keep idle company, particularly women: "For (says she) if you do that, mamma will certainly come to hear it one way or other, and then she will not let you teach me any longer." I took my leave of her, promising to pursue her advice in every thing, but could not help reflecting upon the serious caution she gave me. I flattered myself that she had an affection for me; and, from that day, I resolved to discover my passion to her, the very first opportunity that offered. I went to Bristol, and after four days stay there, came back to Ross. The first thing I heard at the place where I dismounted, was, that Parthenissa was gone to her brother's in Monmouthshire. This gave me a great deal of uneasiness; but, however, her stay there was not three weeks. The moment she came home, she sent her maid to inform me of her arrival. I ran there in an instant, and found her playing her music. As soon as I entered the room, she moved off from her chair, and came half way to meet me. I could have sprung into her arms, as quick as thought; but, being young and timorous, was fearful lest I should be repulsed. But my eyes told her the language of my heart, and they received the same compliment from her bright ones.

Here we reciprocally gave an account of ourselves, since we had seen each other. She

VOL. I.

C

laughed

laughed heartily at mine ; and, at the same time, gave me a fresh charge, not to keep any of the girls company, especially those of an indifferent character ; for, if I did, that no people of credit would care for employing me. So far I own she was right ; but, she had in that (as you will find she had in every thing else) two meanings. However, I protested that I would keep no girls (especially those of the town) company, much less those of ill repute ; and that there was but one woman among the fair sex, that I thought worth while conversing with : looking wishfully at her, I said, " Dear madam, you may easily guess what, and who she is ;" with that she took me by the hand, and begged I would make my words good, which I really did.

Nothing material happened till September, Gloucester music-meeting beginning upon the first Tuesday, I went upon the Monday ; though she was far from being pleased with my going there ; and she quarrelled with me in the following manner, after my return, for my going to Gloucester. The very hour I came to Ross, I went to her ; and after I had given an account of what top companies there were, who and who were together, and what the ladies wore, (being counted expert at that) and the like, miss took an occasion to mention the Welch gentry ; then their good living ; and began to praise Monmouthshire : I was of the same opinion ; then put in a word for Carmarthenshire (my native place)

(place) and here the quarrel began ; she fell into a passion, and insisted upon it, that the gentlemen's servants of Monmouthshire wore better linen, lay upon better beds, eat and drank better far than did the gentlemen themselves of Carmarthenshire. I foolishly insisted on the contrary, and told her, no person that had seen the country, would ever offer to aver what she had done; especially for a truth, as she did. The word had not been out of my mouth a moment, but she took a mugg full of cyder, which stood upon the table, and flung it full in my face; it likewise wetted my breast, so ran down to my heels. The old lady was so confounded at the young one's behaviour, that she looked very pale ; turned herself and chair from the table towards the fire : as for miss, she did nothing but blush. I took my hat, thanked her for the compliment, so went home to shift myself ; resolving, at the same time, never to go near her more. The next morning, I sent a letter to a young woman of my acquaintance in London, desiring her to look out for a convenient lodging for me, as near to her house as could be had. Furthermore, I writ her the reason of my coming up, and that I would most certainly see her in fourteen days time. Just as I had put the letter into the Post-Office, Mrs. P——'s servant came to me in the street, and assured me, that her mistress was in a violent passion with miss, for her indiscreet behaviour to me, the

foregoing night ; " But pray, Mr. Parry, (says she) come to our house ; for my mistress and miss do earnestly beg you will come ; and they hope that you have not mentioned any thing of your quarrel with miss, among those of your acquaintance." I assured the servant to the contrary ; and at the same time told her, I never intended to come to their house any more ; for that was the only way to prevent such ridiculous usage for the future : the servant acquainted miss with what I had said. The next day, miss came to Mr. Fisher's, (a chandler) and stood some time in the shop, before I came that way ; the minute she saw me, she beckoned to me ; I went to her : she desired that I would come to their house, for her mamma wanted me about some business ; " And (added she) dear Mr. Parry, if you have any regard for me, shew it by coming." I assured her I would wait upon her mamma in the afternoon ; accordingly I went. I presently found, that the old lady had never sent any such message, so was for going away ; Parthenissa caught me by the arm, and desired to speak with me. I went into the parlour with her ; she laid her hands upon my shoulders, looked wishfully in my face, and said, " Dear, dear Mr. Parry, forgive me for being so silly to fling the cyder in your bosom the other night ; mamma will hardly speak to me, she is so very angry." I clasped her in my arms, and forgave her ; not a little proud of the opportunity.

tunity. "I shall not be really convinced (says she) of your being reconciled to me, unless you stay to supper with me, and play at cards." I with pleasure complied with her request, and went home well enough pleased. During all this time, I never ventured to kiss her; which makes me of opinion, that, until several months afterwards, she thought me really equipt for the Opera-house! But now there happened an accident, which brought a fresh quarrel on between us. There came a letter from London, in answer to that which I had written to the gentlewoman of my acquaintance, concerning her taking a lodging for me. The person that carried the letters knowing me to be commonly at Mrs. P——'s, went there, and left the letter with miss. She seeing the directions to be of a woman's hand-writing, made no more ado, but opened it. In the interim, I met the fellow, who told me, he left a franked letter for me with Parthenissa. I went immediately up. As soon as she heard my voice, she ran down stairs, speaking aloud, that there was a letter for me in the parlour; but when we came there, to my surprise, she pulled it, opened, from under her apron; telling me, she was quite deceived in me, for that I had a fine mistress in London. "If I have, madam, (says I in a heat) that is no busines of yours; and I want to know by what authority you broke it open: but, however, I shall leave orders, for the future, to

have my letters delivered into no person's hands but my own." She then begged of me, for heaven's sake, to forgive her, for she would never offer to do the like any more : my passion was soon over, we were immediately friends ; and as the person that writ me the letter, is now upon the town, her letter shall even take its chance amongst the rest ; and is as follows.

*To Mr. James Parry, Organist of Ross,
Herefordshire.*

My dear little Welchman,

"**Y**OUR kind letter agreeably surprised us ; for Dick Ball not only told us you was dead, but that you died a martyr to love ; and am glad to find myself deceived. I beg you will make all the haste you can up here ; and insist upon it that you will make my house your home ; my bed shall be yours, and my bosom your pillow. I have often been a mistres, but never was a lover, until now ; and had it been my good fortune (as it is the unkind fair one's you mention in your letter) to have captivated your heart, I should have thought myself happy, and would with pleasure have flung myself into your arms. I am glad to hear you are so chaste, but am very much of opinion, I shall rob you of your chastity, the very first time I am blessed with your company. I therefore conjure you to come up ; and if you can away with

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 55

with what we live upon, no one on earth shall be more welcome. If your young lady has not the fire in her eyes which I have, I hope you will leave her, and come to me; and nothing shall be wanting in me, to make you pass your time here agreeably; but I hate the thoughts of your young lady. Judy and Hetty desire to be remembered to you; and should you prove boisterous, I can assure you, we shall we apt to cool you. I hope you do not forget the time you broke my china punch-bowl between ye, which cost me two guineas. Pray lay out five or six shillings for me in some of your Herefordshire bacon, which I am fond of, and I will repay you with pleasure. So now, thou lovely son of Venus! I take my leave; subscribing myself, with sincerity,

Your most affectionate and sincere,

London, Grays-Inn-
Lane, 27th of Sep-
tember, 1730.

A. H."

Whilst I was reading this love epistle, Parthenissa was playing a lesson: of a sudden she stopt, and begged that I would promise her one thing. I wanted to know what it was: "I will not (says she) tell you, until you swear a great oath, that you will not only promise what I shall ask you, but you shall likewise keep that promise." I told her, I

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thought

thought it a very unjust proposal, to have me promise I could not tell what; if she did but let me know what she designed, I would comply with any thing, provided it would not prove to be of any manner of detriment to me. She assured me, that it was so far from being detrimental, that it would be of service to me. After a little arguing, I sware the oath she put me; "Then, says she, never answer the London letter, and never write to that lady of pleasure, or to any other woman, unknown to me." I clasped her round the waist, and said, "I hope, dear miss, if I fulfil your desire, you will oblige me in the same manner." "I will not promise you now, says the fair one, but if you will keep yours, you do not know what I shall do for you in time." Being over head and ears in love, I bowed, obeyed, and left the room.

All this time I was obliged to carry myself very reserved, especially among the girls, for she had a watchful eye upon my actions; nay, she kept a spy sometimes.

One day, in particular, we were talking of the pictures which I had seen at Blenheim-house. After I had given her the best description that I was capable, of what I had seen, &c. she told me she would produce me a piece of painting, that I did not know what to make of: at last, there was sixpence laid that I did. She ran up stairs, and brought down a fan (which had been given her by miss

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 57

miss Alice Clarke, as she informed me) and told me, that there was the painting upon it; "It is a scripture-piece, says she, and now let me hear your description of it." I looked at it, and, not knowing the history, said, "Faith, miss, all that I know of it is, here is two old men, with long beards; here is likewise a woman sitting upon the earth, by a large chest, which seems to lie open." She could not forbear laughing heartily at me; she took the fan out of my hand, and told me, That that old man (pointing at one of the figures) was Laban, who had pursued Jacob, for stealing his images. "The other (says she) is Jacob, who knew nothing of his wife's having the images, and opened the chest, to convince Laban of his innocence." "That woman (added she) is Rachel, sitting on the ground, who had stolen the images, and hid them under her petticoats: but I will shew it you in the bible;" so ran up stairs, and brought me down a bible, opened at the 31st chapter of Genesis, and bid me read the 34th and 35th verses, which are as follow. "Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them: and Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me: and he searched, but found not the images, &c."

I (making myself a greater ninny-hammer than I really was) asked her what Rachel meant, by having the custom of women upon her; likewise what those customs were. Between a blush and a smile, she said, "If you are a stranger to those things now, you will not be so long, I warrant you." For my part, I was glad I had lost the wager; flattering myself, I had got a lovely prize, e'er long from the winner.

It being now the depth of winter, we passed away most nights (especially when any of miss's companions, I mean, any of the town girls were there) at Quadrille, &c. And when we could get any odds by betting, let who would lose, we were sure to win, by always going halves. When the company were gone, (which was commonly about nine or ten o'clock) miss and myself were sure to play an hour or two: and very often, the old lady was forced to come and take away the cards. But one night, in particular, we were asked to leave off, it being late. "Indeed, mamma, (says miss) we will not leave off, until we have played two games more at All-fours." This put the old lady (who was just going to bed) into a violent passion; she came and told us, that she would burn the cards, music, and all, before she would be so subservient to any daughter in England; so away she went up to bed. The minute she went up stairs, I was for going home; telling miss, I would not stay any longer, lest I should incur her mamma's

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 59

mamma's displeasure. "I do not care, Mr. Parry, (says she) you shall stay longer with me, and I will make mamma believe you went away as soon as she did :" upon which, she went to the street door, unlocked it, then opened it again, and afterwards slammed it together aloud ; by which means the old lady thought me to be gone as soon as she was got up stairs. The servant could not avoid being privy to all this, and left her young mistress and me together in the parlour, whilst she went to the kitchen, where she quickly fell fast asleep. Miss and myself sat close by each other ; I having my right hand round her neck, and she her left round my waist. Our talk was constancy in love, and what not ; until at length we fell asleep in each others arms ; to me it was a Paradise ; and there we were snug enough until three o'clock in the morning, when the maid awakened us by the noise of the kitchen door. She begged of miss to go to bed, and me home. They were both fearful of opening the fore or back doors, by reason of the skreeking noise they made, which would most certainly have awakened the old lady ; so that they let me out of the parlour window, from whence I went home, well pleased with the night's adventure.

The Christmas holidays coming on, Mrs. P—— paid me off for teaching miss, who was to go to the Hill, (the seat of Jof. Clarke, Esq;) there to stay with those young ladies, for six

60 MEMOIRS OF THE

weeks or two months ; during which time, (I should say indeed of my being at Ross) I created, and undeservedly, a female enemy, one Mrs. Painter, a milliner. It was through the insinuations of her husband, who was averse to my being made organist, he having a kinsman that could play the organ. Mrs. Painter resolving to have me removed from teaching Parthenissa music, strove to effect it in the following manner.

Miss Bond, of Cowberry, (since married to — Hanger, Esq;) being one day at Mrs. Painter's, asked, "What news?" "No great news, says Mrs. Painter; but if you will keep it a secret, I will tell you some." Miss Bond replied, "If it is worth keeping, I will." "Why then, says the other, Mr. Tudor the curate told me, that he actually saw Parry the organist, and Parthenissa, walking in the garden ; he with his hand round her waist, and kissing her like any thing." The story, (not worth keeping, especially by a lady of fortune) was told to Mrs. Hannah Dew, a mantua-maker ; (those are a sort of species that can keep no secret but their own) she tells it Mrs. P——'s servant, and she tells it of course to her mistress ; Mrs. P—— gave no manner of credence to it, because it came from the mouth of Mrs. Painter : however, she sent her servant to ask Mr. Tudor the curate, whether he really said, (or ever saw any familiarity between miss and me) what Mrs. Painter averred for truth. Mr. Tudor

was

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 61

was surprised at so monstrous a fallacy, and gave his service to Mrs. P——, assuring her, that, to convince her of his innocence, he was ready at any time to receive the communion upon it, that he never saw me in the garden with miss, neither did he ever see me kis her. Mrs. P—— was satisfied that the author of this report was none other but Mrs. Painter; and to let her see what little regard she had for any thing she should assert, she immediately sent for miss home from the Hill; who, as soon as she heard of this lying affair, sent for Mrs. H. Dew; and as soon as they were alone, Parthenissa fell upon her knees, and thanked her for letting Pen their servant into the affair, whereby she was cleared of Mrs. Painter's aspersion.

I was at Hereford when this hurly-burly happened; and when I came home, I was surprised to hear, by Mrs. P——'s servant, (who came to call me) that miss was come home from the Hill, for I expected her to have staid there above a month. When I came to the house, Mrs. P—— informed me, that her daughter should learn of me again, by that time April or May was come; but that I was welcome to come there as usual, until miss did begin again: "Nay, says the old lady, I insist upon your coming every day, or else I shall think you are angry with us." This was all in despite of Mrs. Painter; for if I, at any time, missed coming, either night or morning, I was asked

by

by all the family, where I had been, and what made me so strange? And it was some months before I knew the reason of the old lady and her maid's being so uncommonly civil. I was sensible I had taken no pains to initiate myself into their good graces; but, on the other hand, the young one's idea was always in my sight.

May the 1st, 1731. Mrs. P— brought miss with her into the parlour, and said, "Mr. Party, my daughter this day begins to learn again of you; so miss (continued she) follow it close." I had now thoughts of nothing but that of discovering my passion to her, and was grown so excessively fond of her, that I was as restless as a butterfly, unless it was when I was setting by her side: and one day, in particular, she opened her bosom, to shew me a small pimple, which newly had broke out; I laid my hand upon her breast, she her hand upon it, and pressed it hard to her breast; I immediately put my other arm round her neck, looked very passionately at her, and repeated the following distich, which I had seen in Ramsay's Poems,

"Upon your cheek sits lovely youth,
Heav'n sparkles in your eye;
There's something sweet about your mouth;
Dear M—y let me try."

I then eagerly embraced her, and it was a minute before I disengaged myself from her; and

and was so confounded after I had taken that liberty, (especially when I saw her head-cloaths half off, and her face confused with a beautiful blush) that I was incapable of speaking to her. So after both walking in disorder about the room, for two or three minutes, she broke silence, by asking me to play a tune. After I had played, I put her to play ; and now, finding myself in raptures, I made my passion known to her, in the softest and most endearing eloquence, that my mean capacity would allow. I assured her, that from the first moment my eyes were blessed with the sight of her lovely person, I had been passionately in love with her, that my flame was unquenchable, and that without her, life would be miserable to me. While I was making love to her, she smiled, and asked me, if I was not ashamed to talk of love at those years, being but a boy, and not out of my teens. "It is time enough for you (continued she) to talk of marriage, love, and the like, when you come to be six or seven years older." That was no satisfactory answer to me : I made love to her so incessantly, for two or three days after the first kiss, that I brought her to this open confession. "Dear Mr. Parry, I was as much enamoured with you, as you could possibly be with me; nay more. I never would let my mamma rest in quietness, until I had the man I loved, to teach me; and should you abuse this generous declaration of mine, you will

will be the most barbarous of your sex." " My angel, (says I, embracing her) if I thought it was in my power to prove so inhuman, after so generous a confession, I would this moment forfeit a life which I only value for your sake." And now was the time I was made acquainted with Mrs. Painter's story before-mentioned. She begged that I would not let any body know that I knew any thing of it. The maid, next day, being in a very good humour, told me the same, and desired that I would not mention it to any body, no not even to miss. I promised her I would not, and kept my word with both of them, and never heard any more of it.

Now having opened our hearts, we became free and familiar with each other. I often proposed marriage to her, and was often answered by her, that if I would stay until she was of age, and that if I kept no lewd women company, she would be my wife, or none other's upon earth. " But (says she) I will never marry before I am of age, therefore you will not be uneasy, for it will not be a very long while to stay; and my being married to you then, entirely depends upon your carriage, in regard to the company you keep betwixt this and that time." This promise was sealed with numberless rapturous kisses, and I now thought myself more than happy.

About this time I had the following song given me, which she would very frequently make:

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 65

make me sing to her in a low voice, lest the old lady should hear me.

I.

BY the mole on thy bosom, so soft and
so white ;
By the mole on thy neck, where my arms
would unite ;
By whatever mole else thou hast got out of
sight ;
I beseech thee to hear me, dear Molly.

II.

By the kiss just a starting from off thy moist
lips ;
By the tip of thy tongue, which all tongues
far out-tips ;
By the delicate up-and-down jerk of thy hips ;
I beseech thee, &c.

III.

By thy soft downey bosom, on which my soul
dies ;
By thy downe of all downes, which I love as
my eyes ;
By your last thoughts at night, and the first
when you rise ;
I beseech thee, &c.

IV.

By all the soft pleasures a virgin can share ;
By the critical minute no virgin can bear ;
By the joys that I languish to ask, but don't
dare ;
I beseech thee, &c.

I come

I commonly embraced her between each verse ; and whenever I came to the last line, she would tell me I fibbed ; for I did dare ask for the joys that I languished, and that I should have them one day or other, if I could have patience, &c.

She thought it advisable, to prevent our being suspected, that I should go and chat with some pretty girl ; especially since that she and myself sat so often and so long together. " My angel (says I) I will obey your commands in any thing : if you please to name one, I will manage the rest." " Then (says she) let it be Betty Hughes, the mantua-maker ; but you shall let me know when you go and come ; be sure take care you do not love her in earnest :" " No, madam (says I) I should not, was she Venus herself." Thus we parted that night, pleased with the thoughts of our scheme, to keep the old lady in ignorance.

One day (as she informed me afterwards) she asked her mamma, if she had heard any news of me. " No, says the old lady, I have not." " Why then says miss, I will tell you some ; Mr. Parry is courting Betty Hughes ; I would give any thing to have a jobb contrived for her to do here." The maid, upon hearing this, said, she had a couple of gowns that wanted altering ; they were looked out ; and accordingly, Mrs. Hughes finished them at Mrs. P——. When I came there next time, the old lady assured

me,

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 67

me, she thought I had made a very pretty choice: yes, thinks I, if you knew all: however, I carried the jest on for a month or two, in which time I lost my mantua-maker, she going to live elsewhere.

September, 1731. The triennial music-meeting was held at Worcester. Mr. Clarke, of the Hill's family went there, and would have had Parthenissa to have gone with them. She had laid her commands upon me a fortnight before, not to go; I did the same by her, so neither of us went.

In the beginning of October, there was a great hunting-match near Ross. The gentlemen called themselves the Buck-hunters club. I observed one R—s, an attorney of Ross, among the gentlemen. How he came to thrust himself among them, to me is a matter of surprize. To be brief; the gentlemen wanted a ball; R—s engaged to bring half a dozen young girls. The moment I heard the proposal, I ran to Parthenissa, and told her, if she had any regard for me, she would refuse going to the ball that night. "Lord bless me (lays she) what are you afraid of? You have no reason, I am sure; I have not danced this long time, &c." Finding her eager for going, I assured her that I would spoil their sport, by making the music drunk; she eagerly (I ought to say coaxingly) kissed me, and promised never to go again, without my being willing. I gave the old lady (you may guess at my reason) some

some hints, not to let miss go ; because I knew several rakes among the gentlemen. " If so (says she) I am resolved she shall not go, unless my cousin D—y C—e comes for her ; I cannot refuse him, being a relation." I went down the town, and saw the girls who were to be at the ball, frisking it about like wild-fire, from one's house to the other's. Poor creatures ! I could not blame them ; I knew six or seven, the best fortunes of the town, that had never been asked the question by any man, unless as I had done by the mantua-maker.

I met Mr. R—s ; he asked me where my scholar was ? " She is at home, sir (says I.)" " I tell thee what, Parry (says he, with a face as rough as a map of Switzerland) she is to be my partner to-night." " By all means, said I to him ; I would advise you to open the ball by dancing a minuet with her." " Gad, so I will (quoth he.)" I left him, knowing she had an aversion to him, ever since he brought some gingerbread-nuts home from Worcester, and bragged that the miss Clarkes gave them to him ; when at the same time he was only asked (by Mrs. Aspey) to carry a plate-full to the Miss Clarkes, by which means he slipped a handful or two into his own pocket. Had Parthenissa thought of him as of any other, he should have been d— as soon as have danced with her, for the following reason. Immediately meeting Mr. G—s, a surgeon (whom

I had

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 69

I had a great regard for) he asked me which of the girls danced best ; " The best dancer, (says I) Parthenissa; G— R—s designs to open the ball with her." " He! (says Mr. G—s) a rock-faced puppy ! the girl is not crazy, sure !" " Well (says I) If you will give me a bottle of wine, you shall dance with her." " I will (says he) upon honour." So away goes I to miss, and insisted upon her dancing with Mr. G—s, to refuse R—s. " I would as soon dance with a rag-man (says she;) and will oblige you in any thing." Mr. R—d C—ke came about seven o'clock for her ; and as soon as the music (which was of my procuring, and consisted of a nailor, a shoemaker, and a pedlar) was ready, Mr. R—s advanced to Parthenissa, and begged of her to dance a minuet ; she refused him. Whilst he was asking another, I tipt Mr. G—s the wink, and her a nod ; when, to Mr. R—t's surprize, they were upon their toes in an instant. " Parry (says he to me in a hurry) dost thee mind that ?" " Yes (says I) and think it comical enough." " I asked her to dance (says he) she would not ; it is out of the frying-pan into the fire." I advised him never to concern himself about her. Miss and myself often laughed at him, when he little thought of us.

In a month's time after, Mrs. P—— paid me for teaching miss ; and told me, she did not care that miss should learn any more musick till spring ; because the making of a
fire

fire daily in the parlour, during the winter season, would prove expensive, &c. As soon as Mrs. P—— had left the parlour, I observed tears in miss's eyes. I begged to know the reason of her uneasiness. "How can you ask me (says she) when mamma has but just paid you, and you must not come near me till spring, and perhaps not then neither;" with that she fetched a sorrowful sigh; I could not refrain from weeping with her. "For heaven's sake (says she) contrive some way or other to come here often, otherwise I shall be miserable." "My dear (says I) I have a thought just come into my head, that shall keep me a month longer with you, unsuspected by your mamma." "Out with it (says she eagerly) for God's sake." "You was three weeks (says I) learning some of Gasperini's sonata's; you shewed some dislike to the musick, when first I writ it down for you; I will teach you, in lieu of that music, a concerto of Signior Vivaldi's; by this means I shall come to my fair one as usual." Parthenissa liked the proposal very well, ran to the kitchen door, speaking aloud in the following manner, viz. "Mamma, I was three weeks learning of an ugly tune; Mr. Parry does not at all like it himself, though he made me learn it; neither do I; so Mr. Parry shall teach me to play one of Vivaldi's concerto's, instead of the other that I have already learnt, and all into the bargain." "But perhaps child (says

Mrs.

Mrs. P——) Mr. Parry will not be willing." " Yes, yes, madam (says I) with all my heart; and I am willing to teach miss a newer, and a far better tune than the last." " Well, (says the old lady) do as you will, miss, I will leave it to yourself;" the hearing which pleased both miss and me: so we went on as usual, until the other month was past, when miss desired me to come there constantly for the future: " For mamma (says she) does not think of the expence that she talked of before to you; and if she does not pay you for teaching me, I will; for she allows me so much a year, to do what I will with it." I was easily satisfied, and glad of the opportunity of being (especially alone) with her; and this winter I spent most of my time with her, seldom having any person to disturb us, except two or three that used to come to play at cards with them.

There was, at this time, a gentleman enamoured of Parthenissa, as well as myself; his name was Doomsday, then (but now he practices physic) A. B. of Baliol-College, Oxon, he gave me to understand, that he had a great regard for my scholar, Parthenissa; if I could bring the matter about, i. e. a marriage, I should have two hundred pounds the day the ceremony should be performed. I thought Mr. Doomsday deserving a woman of fortune, but did not like his proposal for Parthenissa in the least; and knowing myself to be very much in her good graces,

I re-

I resolved to hasten my marriage with her as soon as possible, because I found Mr. Doomsday intent upon paying his addresses to her.

Two hundred pounds to a person that had had no engagement with a young lady, would have been a pretty sum, for conveying of letters, &c. but if it had been in his power to have given me two thousand, I would have rejected his proposal. I (to carry on my own amour) told him, I would do him all the service I could ; he, with a great deal of credulity, believed me sincere ; but who to a rival can be so ?

At Candlemas, 1731-2, miss advised me to pretend love to some pretty girl or other, in order to blind her mamma, concerning our amour. " My angel (says I) I cannot, at this time, think of any girl, to whom I can pretend to write." " I (says she) will think of a girl for you ; likewise I will get you a letter, which you shall copy out, and send her." I consented of course, and in a day or two's time she informed me, that she had thought of a girl. " She is (said she) a clergyman of Worcester's daughter ; her name is Betty D—ne ; she is waiting-woman to the Miss C—s of the Hill ; she is a jolly, comely sort of a girl ; you shall send her a love-letter, and our Pen (for the maid's name was Penelope) shall carry the letter to Betty D—ne." " Really miss, says I, I never writ a love-letter to any one in my life ; and do assure you, that I am a perfect novice

novice in the affairs of love; and that, dear miss, I need not tell you." "Well (says she) I will fetch you a book that has letters enough in it, and I will chuse one for you to write." With that she went up stairs, and brought me down a book, (entitled, God's Revenge against Murder) and picked out a letter for me, and afterwards made me write it out, and she sent it by the relation of her's (I mean Pen) to deliver it to Mrs. D—ne (see letter, No. I.) at the Hill. The moment Mrs. Dean had perused it, she flung it into the fire; called me blockhead, hobbeydyhoy, and what not. The servant, Pen, that carried the letter, assured Mrs. D—ne, that I had a great respect for her; and that Mrs. D—ne, in my eyes, was the most agreeable woman breathing. In short, Mrs. D—ne gave herself airs that did not become her; and had she known my real thoughts of her, she undoubtedly might have had reason to have been out of temper. Pen came home, and informed us of the progress she had made in the courtship between Mrs. D—n and myself; and when miss and I were by ourselves, I told her, it was not right in sending such a sincere letter to a girl which I despised; "And, my dear, says I, I never will write such another to any of the sex, unless it be to yourself." "Dear Mr. Parry, says she, you shall send Betty D—n one more, then I will never desire you to write another to any other woman." I gave her my sentiments,

by telling her, it would be but nonsense; “For the girl, says I, has called me hob-beydyhoy, because I imagine she does not think me big and old enough for her.” “I am fully resolved, says she, that you shall send her one more.” Thinks I, when beauty commands, who can deny? She then brought me the before-mentioned book, and made me write another letter (see letter, No. II.) to Mrs. D—n; but after I had written it, we could not think of a way to convey it to her: for if Pen had taken it, the other would not have received it. But that week, Mr. C—ke’s youngest daughter came and made Parthenissa a week’s visit: in the mean time, Parthenissa informed her how deeply I was in love with Betty D—n, and that I could think of no way to have a letter safely conveyed to her. “I beg (says Parthenissa to Miss Molly C—ke) as your pappa is now at the King’s Arms, that you will write to your sister, miss Jenny, and inclose Mr. Parry’s letter to Betty D—n in yours, by which means Betty D—n will have Mr. Parry’s letter, by the hands of Miss Jenny.” There being no great occasion for importuning, Miss Molly writ to her sister, and inclosed my letter in her’s. I carried it to the King’s Arms, where Mr. C—ke was, and gave it him, telling him, it was from Miss Molly Clarke to Miss Jenny. As soon as Mr. C—ke went home, he gave the letter to Miss Jenny, who read over mine, (being unsealed purposely) then sealed it, and gave it

it Betty D—n. She, next day, came in a violent passion to Ross, and scolded at Miss Molly, for making a foot-post of her father. I being then at Mrs. P——'s, and hearing her use an innocent young lady rudely, could not forbear giving her a harsh sentence, intermixed with an oath or two; and lo! here ended this sham courtship.

If Mrs. D—n had really been a woman of any fortune, she might have had some reason for giving herself those airs. I afterwards begged her pardon, and assured her of the truth, i. e. that what I had written to her was only in jest, &c. The misses C—kes (as Parthenissa informed me afterwards) were concerned for my passion to Mrs. D—n, and were sorry that she had sent so uncivil an answer to my letter; the young ladies pitied my (as they imagined) unhappy case, in loving Betty D—n, and not being beloved by her; but those ladies (as well as every one else) were deceived in my affairs, until time brought my unhappy amour with Parthenissa to light.

I was obliged (to so great a height did our intimacy reach) to give Parthenissa an account where I went, what company I actually kept, what money I expended; and would very often make me swear, that I offered no immodesty to any woman, since the time I became acquainted with her; and that I should not offer any rude thing to any woman for the future. I, at the same time, would press

her to marriage ; her constant answer was ; “ Stay until I am of age, and I will be your wife, or no man’s upon earth ; therefore be patient, and give yourself no uneasiness ; riches shall not tempt me to be any other man’s, and am resolved to be lawfully your’s.” I thought this declaration of her’s so satisfactory, that it was some considerable time afterwards, before I made mention of the word matrimony to her.

About this time (March, 1732) to visit her relations in Ross, there came one Miss Mary Hill, from London. This young gentlewoman had a good voice, was fond of music, and being at the house of a friend of mine, I had the opportunity of hearing her sing ; was delighted with her manner of singing ; and as she knew nothing of music, any more than by ear, I undertook to teach her an Italian song or two. I soon made Parthenissa acquainted with it ; upon which she flew into a passion, and insisted that I should not teach Polly Hill a note more, until she had heard her sing ; nay, she made me swear it. She then insisted that I should go and fetch Miss Hill, and bring her to the organ-loft, and there make her sing what little she had learnt of me. Miss Hill readily came ; sung two or three songs ; during which time, I never looked at Miss Hill, lest Parthenissa (who kept a strict eye upon me) should think I had had a liking to her, and had much ado in persuading Parthenissa to the contrary ; but

but she expressly laid her commands upon me, that I should not teach Miss Hill one note more; nor even be in her company at any time and place whatsoever: all which commands, as a sincere (or rather foolish) lover, I carefully obeyed.

In the beginning of April, 1732. M—P—, Esq; (brother to miss by the father's side) sent down an account of the death of his spouse. The poor woman came of a family hardly to be matched again. Her grandfather was the noted Sir R—r H—l, of D—nh—m, near Uxbridge; her father robbed a church in Thames-street, for which he (committing sacrilege) was condemned to be hanged, but was reprieved by Queen Anne, and afterwards died in Ivelchester goal in Somersetshire; her father's own brother was hanged at Gloucester, for the highway. All this I will prove to be true; by which you may see how careful he was to marry into a polite family. And the reader will see further, before he has run over these Memoirs, what particular reasons could have induced me to have given so just an account of him and his gang, I mean M—P—, Esq. The same day that his wife paid the debt of nature, he writ a letter (which came to Ross upon the 7th) requiring Mrs. P—, and miss, to meet the deceased corps, as chief mourners, by ten of the clock, at Monmouth, upon Thursday the 14th of April.

This piece of news shocked me; for the thoughts of being absent from my fair one, made me look as dismal as could a dead warrant, had it come for an execution. As for miss's part, she seemed very much afflicted (the day the letter came) for the death of her half brother's wife; but considering that death's a debt we all must pay, after I had done all that in my power lay, to keep up her spirits, she comforted herself, and bore the loss with christian patience.

I frequented the house in the same manner as heretofore, although she would not be seen or heard to play any music; and I had the more time to tell her what anxieties I should be in, during her absence, &c. "Dear Mr. Parry (said she) do not grieve; for as I live and breath, mamma and I will not stay in Monmouthshire above a fortnight. I know it is a long time for a lover to wait, but I fear, after enjoyment, you will not think a much longer stay tedious." I tenderly embraced her, made her firm protestations to the contrary, which very well satisfied her.

Wednesday (the 13th of April) being come, proved the last day, until some considerable time, that I had the pleasure of her conversation afterwards. I was determined to make use of every opportunity, so spent that day with her; promising, at her request, sincerely to avoid the company of any women, but those of a good character. "If you faithfully fulfil, said she, what you promise,

mise, I will make you amends by marrying you very soon ; and I do not in the least doubt, but you will make up your defect of fortune, by making the best of husbands." I, of course, promised fair.

I went into the room where Mrs. P—— sat, to take my leave of her for that night ; but, by miss's appointment, came again a little before midnight, whistled softly through the key-hole, the maid opened the cellar, through which I went in, and so up to the kitchen, where miss sat unlaced, and almost undressed. The maid went up stairs, to pack up linen, &c. for the journey ; so that miss and myself being some hours together, the old lady safe in bed, we eagerly clasped ourselves in each other's arms, embracing each other tenderly ; I assuring her of my strong affection, she me of her love, and both of constancy. At last, the morning's dawn occasioned our separating ; and, heaven knows, not without a great deal of reluctance.

I came again at ten o'clock the same morning, in order to help them to fix their portmanteaus, to get on horseback, and about eleven they set out. As I was setting miss's foot in the stirrup, she squeezed my hand, and softly whispered me, " Adieu, my dearest."

After Parthenissa's departure from Ross, I was as solitary as Noah's dove ; but yet I flattered myself with the hopes of seeing her soon, and very often despaired of seeing her,

and frequently ran up to the house, expecting their coming home, but to no purpose ; which gave me a great many inquietudes ; and it was some months before she returned to Ross.

When I found their stay to be longer than first intended, I was in different minds very often, whether I had best make a visit into Monmouthshire, or not ; but again considering, that the mistress of my wishes had not been gone above a month or so, I suspended my journey until July following, lest my going sooner should be the cause of raising any manner of suspicion. When I came there, the old and young ladies expressed themselves well pleased to see me, and the first opportunity I had of being alone with her, I caught her in my arms, pressed her to my breast, and said ; " My lovely angel ! how can you be so cruel, in staying here so long, after the many promises you made me of returning to Ross in a fortnight ? My life, when you are absent, is nothing but a series of disquietudes." " Mr. Parry (said she) I assure you, that I feel the same uneasiness, and sympathize with you in every thing. We (added she) should have been at Ross soon after my sister-in-law was buried, but that my brother has wrote several letters to us, desiring us to stay here until he comes from London, which, by his promise week after week, was to have been in June." The old lady interrupted us, by coming into the parlour.

lour. The next interview we had, she shook her head, and said, " Ah ! Mr. Parry, the death of my sister will be a great loss to both of us." " How can that possibly be, my angel, said I ? " " My brother will marry again, (added she) and then neither you, nor myself, will be a farthing the better for his estate, especially if he has any children ; and if it had not been for the cursed brandy and rum, she might have been yet alive ; but, poor woman ! she loved those liquors prodigiously, and was fuddled almost every day, so that it was impossible for her to hold out for ever." I had not been there above three days, before her brother came from London. As I had heard a great deal of talk concerning this gentleman, was resolved to make what observations I could of him. The moment he alighted from his chariot, he saluted his mother-in-law, then his sister-in-law, and said ; " Dear miss, I have brought you a handsome present ; it is a Dutch whelp, that my servants stole from miss N——n, of the Blue-Boar-Inn in Holborn : it was a favourite : my coachman William broke the collar from off his neck ; and I assure you, madam, I sent my man Ambrose with him so far as Uxbridge, nine days before I set out, and so I took him up there, and brought him to you." She thanked him for his present, and seemed pleased with his out-of-the-way harangue. As for my part, I protest I took him to be Dicky Dickenson, *alias* Scarborough Dicky, late master of that

Spaw in Yorkshire, remarkable for impudent wit, &c. And as Mr. P—— could neither taste nor smell (through a natural deficiency in his palate) I could not forbear thinking him to be the Dicky, whose picture I had seen a short time before, but was soon convinced to the contrary; for I found a great deficiency here of common understanding, as well as the palate. Mr. Robert D—es, an attorney, asked him (he knew his weakness) to divide thirteen-pence halfpenny between three people; which simple question he could not resolve, until it was put into his mouth by one William Edmunds, a catchpole. I could give two or three stories concerning him, by which some would pity his simplicity, but more laugh at his weakness. In short, although I have given myself this trouble concerning him, he is not worth my notice, and have nothing to do to make any mention of his principles, those being known to most in the country, especially bakers, &c. day-labourers, and particularly to the attorneys, who have been employed against him. But to proceed. The first time he set footing into his house after his journey, I stood by the kitchen fire. As he passed by me in his way to the parlour, I made his worship a reverend bow; he was too busily engaged, to take much notice of me at that time; but upon his seeing me immediately afterwards, he asked his sister who I was: she informed him, that I was the organist of Ross, that I taught

taught her music, and that I came there to pay her mamma aad her a visit. "I tell you what (says to her) egad these musicians and dancing-masters are such d——d gawdy fellows, that there is no such thing as knowing them from men of fortune." Ah ! thinks I (who heard him all this time unseen) if that speech had not come from thee, thy brains most certainly must have come out.

As soon as supper was ready, I was asked to walk into the parlour. Whilst we were at supper, he, in an obscene manner, thrust his hand down his sister's bosom, and was pleased to handle her snowy bubbies, as a bear would have done a pancake. Then, (says he to her) "Egad, madam, these breasts begin to look and fwell very prettily ; I must look out for a husband for you ; it shall be some honest Whig, for I hate these damned Tories." I could with pleasure (had it been any where else) have beaten his paper-skull. Miss, as well as myself, was so confounded, that we hardly knew how to look or behave. As soon as supper was ended, he ordered in a particular box to be opened, wherein he kept his books of accounts : he then shewed us his method of keeping them ; and, added he, " This is the exactest method in the world ; it is the very same that the old dutches of M——gh uses." For my part, I was soon tired of him, and made it my business to be in private with his sister as much as I possibly could ; but did not think it advise-

able to stay above a day or two longer there; lest they should mistrust our intrigue; for, do all we could, we could not help ogling each other: and the day before I went back to Ross, I had the pleasure of being with her alone for above an hour; in which time I earnestly requested of her (if she had any regard for me) that she would not make any long stay there, but come to Ross. "Dear Mr. Parry (said she) I will teize mamma every day till we come; but am afraid my brother will not let us come until my birthday is over, which is the 10th of October next. But I will (added she) persuade my brother to come to Hereford music-meeting, and there I shall see what sort of women you keep company with." "Dear miss (says I, embracing her) your lovely idea is always in my view, be it where, or in what company I will." So, taking first my leave of her, then of the family, I went back to Ross.

In two or three weeks afterwards, at miss's desire, I sent over a quantity of Indian seeds (which I had had from a gentleman lately arrived from Carolina, and one that I had been acquainted with there) to sow in her brother's garden; and, towards the latter end of August I sent the maid a letter, which she was to shew her young mistress; wherein I gave an account what time the meeting at Hereford began; that there would be a grand appearance, a fine set of performers; such as, Mr. Grano, Mr. Festing, &c. And farther

ther assured her, that the town was free from the small-pox. I went to Hereford; my hopes of seeing her there were frustrated. The horse-races being to begin at Monmouth the following week, was determined to go there; hoping, as she was so near, that I should see her there, with, or (much rather) without her brother. Accordingly, I went from Hereford to Monmouth; but, to my great mortification, she did not come there. By the time the horse-race was over I had been from home a fortnight, and all my cash was gone. I could think of no properer place to go and recruit, than at Parthenissa's, so went over (being but five miles from Monmouth) and, from a neighbouring house, sent for the maid, told her I had spent all my money, that I must beg of her to ask her mistress for some. "A single guinea (says I) will do the business." She said, she would, and left me at the house, expecting her return with the money.

I would have gone myself to the house, but that I did not in the least care for the conversation of the brother. The maid returned, gave her mistress and miss's service to me, and moreover told me, that they desired I would come to see them. Miss's name inspired me; I went with the maid home, where every one expressed themselves glad to see me, especially Parthenissa and her mother. As for the esquire (who was more proud than fat) he took as much notice of
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me as I did of him, which on both sides was little enough. After I had made mention of what news I was asked, I winked at the maid ; she, knowing my meaning, called her mistress out of the parlour, leaving miss and myself behind. I caught her into my arms, kissed her, at the same time complaining of her long stay, &c. " Dear Mr. Parry (said she) for heaven's sake, and by all the affection you bear me, do not stay here any time ; not but I could be with you for ever : my brother is of a mistrustful temper, has asked me already, whether or no you ever kissed, or made love to me in any shape ; all which, you may be sure, I denied." (Here we embraced each other) " And (added she) I beg you will not stay now ; for, by all that is heavenly and sacred I swear, it shall not be above a month before we return to Ross." We vowed constancy and affection to each other ; and, hearing somebody coming, we disengaged ourselves from one another's arms. It was miss's mother that came into the parlour, who told me, the maid was in the hall, and wanted to speak with me. I guessed at the business, took my leave of the mother and daughter, expecting to have received the guinea by the servant, at that time not caring to ask for it myself, although there was more due to me.

I went into the hall, were the maid was ; from thence, with her, into the church-yard (which lies near the house) where, to my surprise,

prise, she told me, her mistress had sent me all the ready money she had, which was but eight shillings; that her mistress was sorry she had no more. "Damn the eight shillings (said I) this will do me no good, for I owe ten in Monmouth." However, I was forced to be contented; so went to Ross, by way of Monmouth, where I diverted myself, as well as her absence would permit me, till December following; when, about that time, Parthenissa's brother got drunk, and, at twelve o'clock in the night, turned Parthenissa and her mother out of doors; and, had not they been near some of their tenants or neighbours, they must inevitably have been starved to death: So that now Mrs. P—— thought it high time to return to her own house in Ross.

Some days before this happened (as miss afterwards informed me) her mamma took her aside, and told her, she did not think of having me come to their house as often as I had been heretofore, lest people should raise lies, and speak ill of miss, as Mrs. Painter had done a year or two before, when Mr. Tudor, the clergyman's name, was called in question, without any manner of foundation. Parthenissa stood like one confounded for some time, not knowing what was best to say: "At last (said she) I do not care if he never comes near the house; and, when the spinnet wants to be put in tune, Dick Painter shall tune it: as he has learnt music of Mr.

Parry,

Parry, it is not to be doubted but he can tune a harpsichord, or spinnet." "No (says the old lady) whatever money I lay out that way, Mr. Parry shall get it, because I am sure he is the properest person, &c." I dare be of opinion, that miss thought so too, as well as her mother, and was better pleased with hearing her express herself so, than the old lady was in speaking so of me.

About the 18th of December, 1732, they came home to Ross. Among several of the town, I went to welcome them home, but had not the opportunity of being alone with miss till sometime after the holidays, because of the town girls; who, after so long absence, visited her daily and hourly: and believe, some of them were as welcome to her, as rain to a parching climate, but others quite the reverse. During the holidays, the servant came to me into the church-yard, and said, "Lord! Mr. Parry, I cannot imagine what sort of a woman my mistress is; neither do I know what to make of her: last night she was uneasy at your staying so long at our house; and, this morning she is wishing, that you may come and dine with her. One minute she is angry, and another I do not know how." I was shagreened at what the servant had said; and told her, I did not care whether I ever came to the house any more. But what I intended by so saying, was with an intent to know more, if possible, of her mistress's temper than I really did. The servant

servant begged of me, for God's sake, to come to the house as often as ever ; " Or else (added she) miss will know that I told you something more than ordinary, and then I shall never hear the last of it."

It is to be imagined that one in love, as I was, did not require a great deal of entreaty to go to the place, where the mistress of his affections was. I constantly attended her, renewed my addresses, &c. and one day in particular she spake to me as follows : " Dear Mr. Parry, it will be a good while before I shall be of age ; and, in all probability, mamma will pay you off one day or other, and send me to board at Mr. Clarke's of the Hill, or to some other place ; and then we, alas ! must be parted. Mamma has been talking to me about it these two or three days."

This discourse was worse than daggers to me ; I stood confounded, incapable of making her any answer. " But (added she) if you will court and marry Dolly Dew, or Jenny Birch, I will settle six hundred pounds upon you the moment my fortune comes into my own hands. You shall get Mr. L—is, or any attorney, to draw my promise in writing ; and when I am of age (for you must not marry any one till then) I will sign the writing before the attorney, in the presence of any other witness you can confide in ; also before yourself, the girl you make choice of, &c. But (added she) if you will marry Dolly Dew,

Dew, she being a favourite of mine, I will, besides the six hundred pounds, settle two hundred upon the first child, and likewise stand godmother to it."

This Dolly Dew was a mantua-maker, about seventeen; a blooming, finical girl, fitter for a play-thing of her christian name, than a husband. Mrs. Birch was an agreeable woman, something above twenty-one; and withal, a woman capable of making any man happy.

I was angry at Parthenissa's proposal; and said, " Dear miss, can you, after the most solemn vows and protestations that has passed between us, of love and constancy, ask me to make love to any other woman? Dolly is a lively girl; and Jenny Birch a very agreeable young woman; but had they each of them a million, I would not, was it in my power, marry either of them." And, laying my hand upon her breast, I said to her, " Here my affections are rooted, my heart is here fixed; I call heaven to witness, that it is you, and only you, I can love upon earth; and as I have no regard for any thing but your lovely person, it is barbarous in you to strive to dissolve the love and friendship between us, that has been so long cementing." She then leaned her head upon my shoulder; and after some kisses interchangeably; " Well, Mr. Parry (said she) what I proposed to you concerning Dolly Dew and Jenny Birch, was only to try your constancy; if you had consented

fented to the proposal which I offered you, I was fully resolved never to speak to you, never to admit you into my company, never to think of you any more, but with horror. Since I find you constant, love on, and be happy as you can wish." I need not mention the agreeable surprise; I obeyed her commands, and thought myself very happy.

In the spring of the year 1732-3, the small-pox broke out in Ross, and proved very fatal, so that miss and her mother hardly ever stirred out of doors, because neither of them had had it. The old lady stuffed all the windows with tobacco dust, in order to keep out the infectious air. As for myself, pretending to be as fearful as either of them, I carried daily a large bundle of rue in my bosom, and took care to observe the old lady's directions, which was not to go near any house that the small-pox was in. This caution of her's gave me an opportunity of staying hours in a day longer than usual at the house; which exactly fitted my purpose, wishing for nothing more than I really had, except the entire possession of her daughter, &c.

Before I proceed any farther in my amour, I will relate one instance of Mrs. P——'s weakness, &c.

Mrs. P—— was a comely gentlewoman, of fifty-six, and formerly had been counted a beauty. She was thought, by most people, to be a good Christian; was a communicant, &c. yet her temper was such, if she took

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the least pique against any one, she was for ever irreconcileable: conceited to the last degree, and valued herself much upon reading histories, &c. and yet I could make her believe any thing. She was of opinion, that the northern lights were particular signs of the world's being near its period. If any light extraordinary appeared in the horizon, then, to be sure, the north pole would be on fire, and the world was to be quickly at an end. If a star shined brighter than ordinary, I could, and have done several times, make her come to the door, and gaze upon it half an hour together.

One day, going to the house, she met me between the street door and the kitchen; "Mr. Parry (says she) I have got something, that if a person carries it about him or her, it will be a means to stop any infection of the small-pox: but (added she) you must doctor it for me." I went into the kitchen with her, and what should this surprising antidote be, but about two ounces of mercury in a small phial. This I put into three different quills, and stopped them up with black sealing-wax. I had one, miss another, and the third she kept herself. In a day or two after it thundered and lightened most terribly; Mrs. P—— and miss, being always affrighted at such times, begged of me, as if I could hinder the storm, to stay that evening there. I complied with their request. There we sat in the dark, having all the window-shutters bolted,

bolted, and the old lady diverting herself, as well as she could, by smoaking, which she did daily, and in no small quantity ; but being too near the fire whilst it thundered, she heated her petticoats to that degree, that the wax which stopped the quick-silvered quil was melted. It got among some silver she had in her pocket, and so disfigured it, that it looked like pieces of new-cast pewter. She was very much surprised at the first sight of the metamorphosed coin ; and asked me, " What could be the reason of the money's being so prodigious bright ?" I told her, " It could be nothing but the thunder and lightning, which happened the day before." She believed me, and shewed the pieces to Mrs. Morse, a milliner, and to several others, as an extraordinary piece of curiosity. I had three shillings to shew my companions (as she thought) but took care to rub off the mercury with wet salt, so spoiled the curiosity. Miss knew, as well as myself, what had occasioned the alteration in the money, would not contradict what I had said, but afterwards begged me, for God's sake, " Not to impose upon her mamma any more ; for if once she found me making sport of her, she never would forgive me : and that is the way (added she) to make us both miserable, by being for ever separated.

I happened, in March 1733, to be at Monmouth, playing at billiards at the King's-Head ; e'er a game was finished, a woman almost

almost out of breath came and enquired for the organist of Ross. She was shewed up to me. After asking her, what business she came upon; she informed me, that Mrs. Hunt was dropped down dead, at Mrs. Margaret Seys's. This Mrs. Hunt was an elderly gentlewoman, of a very good family, one whom I had formerly been very well acquainted with in Charles-Town, and other places in South Carolina. I ran immediately to Mrs. Seys's, and saw the family in tears upon the unhappy accident. All the methods that could be thought of were put in execution, in order, if possible, to bring her to life, but they proved ineffectual. Mrs. Seys, her sister, and others that were in company with Mrs. Hunt the day before her decease, informed me, "That Mrs. Hunt declared, was she to depart this life at any time whilst I lived, she would leave me every thing she died possessed of, was it to the value of ten thousand pounds, because I had shewed her more civility, than any relation in England; and take notice (says she) whenever I die, Mr. Parry shall be my executor." The two Mrs. Seys's begged I would take the executorship upon me; that I could come at Mrs. Hunt's effects; for, should they be at the expence of burying her, as the effects lay in the hands of the deceased's relations, it would be the means of putting them to great inconveniences. I took the matter upon me without any great persuasions; gave immediate orders for

for shroud, coffin, hatbands, gloves, &c. I then set out for Ross, where the premises lay, and secured them for my own use. As soon as I had done that, returned to Monmouth, where I buried the old gentlewoman in a handsome manner. I got, by the old gentlewoman's death, forty gallons of Madeira wine in casks, five dozen in bottles, thirty yards of fine muslin, five hundred yards of ribbons, three fine bed quilts, her wearing apparel, thirty-five yards of fine cloth, made of a mixture of cotton and Holland, three gold rings, and a bond of forty pounds sterling, dated 1731, upon a gentleman in South Carolina. Mrs. P—— had the cloth at her own price, which was like her conscience; and that, God knows, was little enough. The bond I sent over by a New England merchant, one John Furnes, Esq; an inhabitant of Marble-Head, but as yet have heard nothing of it. As for the rest, I made away with it in the best manner that suited my convenience.

About this time Mr. Lewis C. A. Grano, the celebrated trumpet, came to Ross, and took lodgings near the town, for the benefit of the air. As it is common for gay gentlemen to enquire what ladies there are, who are the best fortunes in a town, &c. so Mr. Grano inquired at his lodgings, who were the best in Ross. They informed him of Parthenissa, and as he frequented the church daily, had an opportunity of seeing her often,

by

by reason of Mrs. P——'s living close to the church-yard. Mr. Grano, after having pretended to have conversed with some of the finest women in the kingdom, thought Parthenissa very agreeable, and was resolved to make love to her.

I happened to go to Wigmore, a small town the farthermost part of Herefordshire, where I stayed nine days. Whilst absent from Ross, Mr. Grano writ her a love-letter, and begged the favour of one Mrs. Hannah Mann (whose brother's house Mr. Grano lodged at, as she was acquainted with Parthenissa) to give her the letter. Mrs. Mann, willing to oblige Mr. Grano, took the letter from him, and went to Mrs. P——'s with it; under pretence of paying miss a visit. After a little chat, Mrs. Mann gave miss the letter; said, "She was desired so to do by the gentleman that lodged at their house; and that he was the person that miss had seen at church so often."

Miss took the letter from Mrs. Mann, immediately carried it up stairs to her mother, who opened it. Whilst she was reading it, miss came down again into the parlour; before she had time to say any thing, Mr. Grano, and another sister of Mrs. Mann's, knocked at the door, were immediately shewed into the parlour to Parthenissa and Mrs. Mann. After some congee's, curtesies, &c. Mr. Grano begged the favour of a lesson upon the spinnet, from Parthenissa; but she would

would not oblige him neither upon the spinnet nor the flute, which she likewise played on, though very much importuned by Mr. Grano, and the two sisters.

By this time the old lady had read over Mr. Grano's letter; and, in an angry tone, ordered the maid to call miss out of the parlour; who, no sooner came into the kitchen, but her mother took her up stairs, and bid the maid shut the kitchen door, to leave the street and parlour doors open, "That (said she) the gentry may, at their own leisure, go out as they came in." Mr. Grano, and company, all this while stood dumb, as mutes at a funeral, and finding not any one to come near them, did, as they call it in London, take themselves away.

The next day Mrs. P— sent for Mrs. Mann, and asked her, how she dared to bring letters to her daughter, from any man. Poor Mrs. Hannah made the best apology she was mistress of; assured Mrs. P—, he was a gentleman of fortune, &c. "If he is (says Mrs. P—) keep him to yourselves; you have more occasion for his fortune, than my daughter. Pray take his letter back, and let me see neither his, nor your face, near my doors, any more." Mrs. Mann, glad of the opportunity, took the letter, went home, and never after that time was at Mrs. P—'s.

Mr. L. A. Grano, soon after, having heard how Mrs. Mann had been used, came to

speak with Mrs. P——. After she had asked him his business, he told her, he hoped, as she did not think it proper that he should wait upon her daughter, she would make no words about it, nor think ill of any thing that had past. "Sir (said she, in a haughty manner, peculiar to herself) I shall not think it worth my while;" with that she turned from him, as if she had thought him a beggar.

For my part (who had seen Mr. Grano in other counties) I thought him (as most people that knew him did) a pretty gentleman, a person that no woman could dislike, and one that married, &c. Parthenissa's superior, both in fortune and family.

When I returned from Wigmore, I was informed of all that I have related concerning this affair, by Mr. D—— M——, surgeon; but Parthenissa took no manner of notice of it to me, neither did I to her, until above a month afterwards; and when I mentioned it to her, she gave exactly the same account to me of this short amour, as Mr. M—— had done before; "And (added she) the only reason that I did not tell you of it before was, I was afraid it would make you jealous.

Before this interview of her's and mine, (after the information of Mr. M——'s) I one day overtook Mr. Grano, in a walk near Ross church-yard. After some discourse, foreign to Mrs. P——'s affair, I told him, I
was

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 99

was sorry to hear of the cold reception he met with at Mrs. P——'s; that if he had given me the letter he had written to miss, (instead of the person that carried it) he might have depended upon an answer. "Mr. Parry, (says he) I am heartily obliged to you, and wish it had been my good fortune to have sent it by you, but, unhappily, you was not at home, &c. I am informed (said he again) that miss writes a very fine hand; I should be very much obliged to you, if I could see something of her hand-writing;" That you shall, Sir, says I; so took my leave of him, immediately went to Parthenissa, and begged she would write me out half a dozen verses of any sort that pleased her best. "Pray (says she) who are they for?" "They are (says I) for a gentleman of my acquaintance, that lodges at Mr. Mann's, at Old-Town's-Court." As before hinted, I knew of Mr. Grano's being at Mrs. P——'s, but took no manner of notice of it to any one.

Parthenissa very readily went, writ about fourteen or sixteen lines; and the last were upon a beau's being dressed at a looking-glass. To the best of my memory, it was these.

Here this vain thing sets up for man,
But see what fate attends him;
The powd'ring barber first began,
The barber-surgeon ends him.

"Mr. Parry (said she, as she gave them me) these verses suit the stranger that you speak of." I could not forbear laughing at my perusing of them, made what haste I could to wait upon Mr. L. A. Grano with them, who was extremely well pleased with them; and afterwards behaved towards me like a brother, during the short time I had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

That summer, 1733, Parthenissa paid some long visits at the Hill, (the seat of Jos. C—e, Esq.) I often went into Monmouthshire, until the beginning of September, when the triennial music-meeting was to be held at Gloucester; and resolving to have new cloaths against that time, was obliged to consult with her, what colour, &c. to have, as much as if she was to have paid for what I wore. She pitched upon a copper-coloured coat and breeches; and as the Prince of Orange's marriage was very much talked of, an orange-coloured waistcoat, laced; "For (says she) mamma will like you the better, because she will think you a whig." I fitted myself according to order; and before my journey for Gloucester, I went to see her. She made me solemnly swear, that I would not meddle, or salute any woman, until I returned back to her. I complied with her request in every point. I returned from Gloucester, in company with Mr. Valentine Snow, the trumpet, some French horns that belonged to the Opera, Mr. Harry Parry, the famous harp,
and

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY 101

and others, who were determined to have a concert at Monmouth horse-race ; and as we came through Ross, I ran up to miss, and told her, that I was obliged to be at Monmouth, because I had promised the musicians to do them all the service I could there ; she seemed very uneasy ; I embraced her, and swore, that nothing but death, or some great accident, should keep me a day longer than the horse-race lasted.

I have observed before, that the small-pox broke out in Ross, the beginning of this year. Whilst I was at Monmouth, it broke out at Mrs. K—le's, (a widow gentlewoman, who lived next door to Mrs. P——'s) upon which, Mrs. P—— immediately removed from that neighbourhood, to one Mrs. H——n's (a milliner) the opposite side of the church-yard. This was a great mortification to me, because, as they rented but two rooms, it was an impossibility for me to have the blessing of being private with miss, for the tedious space of two months.

This year there was a troop of the right honourable the Earl of Stair's regiment (but now lord Cadogan's) quartered in Ross, and most part of the time they lay there, the honourable Thomas H——, Esq; was the commanding officer. That honourable gentleman was pleased to take a great deal of notice of me, and made me several handsome presents : so that (unless it was when I was with Parthenissa) I most commonly was in

his company. Upon the 29th of October, Sir D—— W——, Bart. came to Ross, with several others, in order to celebrate his Majesty's birth-day. After the dragoons had fired their rounds, Sir D——, and others, gave them money, and the gentlemen, &c. crowned the evening.

The next morning I came to the King's-Arms Inn, where was Mr. H——, and Sir D——. Upon my coming into the kitchen, Sir D—— asked him who I was. Says Mr. H——, "He is your countryman, an honest Taffy, our organist; if you please, Sir D——, he shall go and give us a voluntary upon the organ :" "With all my heart," replied Sir D——. We went to the church, where I diverted them to the best of my abilities; from thence we went down to the King's-Head Inn, where we did nothing but carouse, &c. until the fifth of November. By that time, Mr. H—— (not being used to such hard drinking as Sir D—— had been) was very much out of order, he took a walk out of town, leaving orders with the serjeants, for firings by the dragoons. Had not Mrs. P——, at this time, lodged at Mrs. H——'s, (where I could have no manner of intercourse with her daughter) Sir D—— would not have had so much of my company, indifferent as it was; but as there was an improbability of being with miss, I could not leave Sir D—— by himself, although I was well nigh as sick as Mr. H——. Sir D—— was very

very uneasy at his absence; I assured him that he was almost dead with drinking; Sir D— swore he would write him a letter, and that I should carry it; which he did, and was as follows.

To the Honourable Tho. H—, Esq.

S I R,

ME thinks, like Jove, I still here boldly stand,
The Drawer watching my divine command.
Like him I thunder, like him I'm obeyed,
Pomona, Thetis, Bacchus, stare dismay'd,
To see their cordials make me not afraid.
But yet dominion has a ghastly hue,
Ten thousand phantoms present to my view,
And all is owing to the want of you.
Come here, and give me but one gracious nod,
I'll make you drunk, or you shall me, by G—.

Nov. 5, 1733.

D. W—.

As soon as I delivered the letter to Mr. H—, (although he was not very well) he could not forbear laughing; he came with me to Sir D—, where we staid two days longer, at the end of which time, he returned towards Brecknockshire; so that now I had time to cool myself.

In the beginning of December, Mrs. P— returned to her own house; every thing went as I could wish; every evening I spent there

at cards. The most constant visitors were Mrs. M—se, a milliner, and Mrs. Eliz. Dew. Our game, generally, was quadrille. Parthenissa, as well as myself, often observed Mrs. Dew to look over our hands, which we not thinking fair play, contrived the following method to be even with her. As it is the custom of that game, after having had leave, (which is not given, if any one of the gamesters has an inclination to play *sans prendre*, i. e. for one to play against the other three) to name the trump before they call a king, so miss and myself were sure of calling each other by the following signs, if it was in either of our turns. The sign for the king of spades, the hand was to be laid flat upon the table; the hand was to be clinched when the king of clubs wanted to be called; the king of hearts, her sign would be to stick a pin in her gown, under her left breast; I was to put my right hand in my bosom: for the king of diamonds we rubbed either an eye or a finger. By this method I often got good spending money: had we played for a shilling a fish, I should have got very considerably.

Nothing very remarkable happened between miss and myself, until Wednesday, the sixth of March, 1733-4, at which time I went to Mrs. P—'s in the morning. As soon as miss heard me playing, she came and told me, that she was going to breakfast at Mrs. M—se, the milliners; that she would be

his message ; I bid him go back and tell her, they were in the parlour chimney ; that if she did not send them, she might keep them, for that I never would come for them. The boy went again, and brought me one board, and, aloud in the church-yard, told me, that Parthenissa would not send the other ; that she desired, for God Almighty's sake, to speak one word with me. I guessed at the business ; and although I was very much concerned at what had passed, yet was resolved to put on the man of spirit, even as if I had had a fortune to have commanded one of twice her's. I went. As soon as I entered the parlour, she fastened the door, and, in a flood of tears, dropped upon her knees, saying, " Dear, dear Mr. Parry, for God's sake forgive me for being so silly and indiscreet, in calling you such scandalous names, for which I am sorry from my heart." Stout as I thought myself, here my courage failed. What cannot moving tears of weeping beauty melt ? Love in gaiety may affect, but love in mourning only truly wounds the heart. I fell at her feet, weeping as fast as herself ; begged of her to rise, for (by heaven I swore it) I forgave her with all my soul. " No, Mr. Parry (said she) I will never rise till you swear the greatest oath you can think of, that you sincerely forgive me." I then, upon my knees, wished that the Almighty would strike me with immediate death, if I did not forgive her with all

the sincerity that one christian could another ; and that I never would mention to her what had passed. I then took her up from her kneeling posture, and begged of her not to fling herself into such violent passions for trifles ; assured her, that if my kissing of Dolley Dew had been so very disagreeable to her, I would, for the future, avoid giving her any manner of offence that way, by kissing no woman, except herself. " Well (said she) dear Mr. Parry, for ever hereafter I never will be jealous of you, unless I really catch you in the arms of another." After almost an endless kiss, I excused myself from staying longer, because the Welch young gentleman waited for me in the church-yard, but she would not let me go, till I had promised to return back to her as soon as the gentleman and I had play'd a game or two. I returned in about two hours. She was fonder of me than ever I had observed her to be ; for my part, I doated upon her. As we were conversing that evening, I observed her on a sudden to pause a while ; just as I was going to ask her her thoughts, she spake to me as follows : " My Parry, since you have been so good to forgive me what happened this morning, I will deny you nothing in the world that you shall ask me, provided it is in my power to grant it." " Then dear miss (said I, embracing her) give me yourself ; for there is nothing this side the grave, that I so much desire. If you will be

be back again by eleven o'clock, and desired that I would stay until her return. "I will take a walk (said I) down into the town, and will be here again by your return," and went out about five minutes before her. I accidentally went into Mr. Dew's shop, a mercer; and not having seen one of his daughters for some weeks, the minute she came to the shop, I saluted her. In the interim, Parthenissa coming down the street fronting the shop, saw me; I turned about, saw miss blush, and stood confused for some short time; then turned about, and instead of going to Mrs. M—se's, returned home again. I was quickly sensible of my error, and heartily wished I had not seen Dolly Dew, or at least that Parthenissa had not seen me salute her, because I knew her to be naturally jealous; so made the best of my way up after her. I no sooner entered the parlour (where she sat expecting me) but she shut the door, and in a disdainful manner, greeted me in the manner following. "Sir, you love me, do not you?" "Madam (said I) what reason have you to call it in question?" "Sir (said she again) I am glad I have found you out in time." "Find me out! (says I, pretending to be in a greater surprise than I really was) What do you mean, madam?" "What do I mean? (says she) Did not I see you kiss Dolly Dew?" "If you did (says I) where is the damage? Is there any harm in giving a modest girl of your acquaintance one kiss?" "A modest

one! (says she angrily) if it had been a modest one, there would have been no occasion for your having one hand round the slut's waist, and the other round her neck: but what could I expect from such a scoundrel, beggar, and vagabond as you are?"

I must confess, I ever had a great regard for that excellent sex, as the most beautiful part of the creation; and ever shall think, that of all follies in man, there is none more excusable than that of love: but yet I am, by the malignity of my stars, passionate (as well as most of my country) and could not help, after having received such ill language, falling into a great passion, repeating the words, scoundrel, beggar, vagabond, &c. and, upon her endeavouring to stop me from going away, I pushed her from me, and bid her go to the D—, H—, &c. and so left her, intending never to speak any more to her, or come near the place where she was. She called after me, to no purpose. I went and dined with a Welch young gentleman, at the Post-Office; after dinner, he challenged me to play a game with him at fives, with battle-boards. I accepted it; and (as my boards were at Mrs. P——'s) sent one Scott (a joyner's son) for them. He knocked at the door, which was opened by miss. He asked her for the boards, but she told him, she knew nothing of them, and that she desired to speak with me. The boy delivered me his

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. III

watchful eye upon all my actions; particularly, one day being at Mr. Dew's, she saw me with two young women at the King's-Head door, and heard me talk Welch to them. I saw her colour change; she immediately went home. I knew very well that my being with the two girls had disobligered her. As I knew them to be of a very good family, and modest, I asked them to go up, and hear the organ, see the church, &c. they readily consented; and also to let Parthenissa see that I did nothing but what I would impart to her, I took the young women up by her door, and so to the church, where I play'd the organ to them. As we were coming out of the church, I had a letter (See Numb. 3.) delivered to me from Parthenissa, by a young woman. I took leave of the young women. The minute I perused the letter went to Mrs. P——'s, and into the parlour; where I had not been long, before miss came rubbing her eyes, which looked as red as ferrets, with crying. "Good god! (said I, clasping her in my arms) what occasion have I given to my lovely angel, to send me such a letter? What reason have I ever given you to be so disquieted?" Reclining her head tenderly upon my shoulder, she said, "Ah! did I not see thee with two strange young women? It is worse than death, for one that loves as I love, to see thee with other women." I assured her, "They were my country women;

that

that I had shewed them the church, &c. out of mere civility, because I knew them to be of a good family, and modest women."

" Ah! (said she) but thou didst kiss them; I know thou couldst not forbear." " By heaven (says I) I did not; and I do assure my dearest, that I would not give a doit, to kiss any woman in Europe, besides thyself."

She believed me; we were reconciled again.

In the spring of this year (1734) Mrs. P— quitted the house she had lived at, and took an apartment in the house of Mrs. K—e, a widow gentlewoman, who boarded her grandchildren. This gave miss, and myself, a great deal of uneasiness, because of the children; who, by their natural way of peeping in every crack and corner, might see us in the midst of our embraces. In order to prevent it, I told the old lady, the greatest inconvenience that attended their being there, was the childrens running too and fro into the parlour, &c. when any strangers came there. " Really, Mr. Parry (said she) that is true; I wish you would contrive some way or other, to prevent their running in and out of the parlour." Glad of the opportunity, I told her, " I would do it instantly." I then went to the carpenter's, and had a button made, which I nailed on the inside of the parlour door, and called the old lady to see my contrivance, with which she was mightily pleased: but, I believe, if she had known the real use of it, she

be pleased to give your consent, I will get a clergyman, licence, and ring immediately."

" Dear Mr. Parry (replied she) it is impossible for us to be married, at this time, by any parson whatsoever, unknown to mamma, or my relations, neither will I by any means venture at it; but, as we love almost to distraction, I will let you enjoy me; but not before we have read the ceremony over ourselves; we shall then be man and wife in the sight of heaven, till we have a convenience of being so in the sight of the world: and, added she, we will marry one another whilst mamma is at church to-morrow morning; and I will pretend to be out of order, lest she should ask me to go to church with her."

It is to be imagined, this declaration of her's was the most welcome thing in the world to me, who went home overjoyed at the thought of what treasure I was to possess the next day.

Their own servant, who was something related to miss's father, was in Monmouthshire at this time, dunning the tenants, which we were both glad of, and a sluggish girl officiated for her. Next morning (being Thursday, March 7, 1733-4) after thinking every minute an hour, I hastened to Mrs. P—'s, where I staid with my charmer till it was church-time. When her mother was going thither, she asked miss if she would go with her; miss excused herself, by saying she was not well, &c. so had the pleasure

pleasure of seeing the old lady go alone. Now, thinks I, is the time for my happiness. I sent the girl, who was as slow as a snail, for a pennyworth of Scotch snuff, at such a distance from Mrs. P——'s, that another would have gone six times as far in the time that she went and came. I immediately locked the street door, went to the kitchen, where miss was sitting by the fire-side; I took her by the hand, and led her into the parlour. "Dear miss (said I, embracing her) now is the time to make your yesterday's promise good; nay, I now will be so free as to insist upon it." She would have deferred it, but I was too much in love, to be put off any longer, and insisted upon the performance of her promise at that very time; upon which, she ran up stairs, and brought down a very remarkable ring (it had been formerly lost by her mother, for seven years, and upwards, and afterwards was found in a dunghill) with which we married each other, reading over the ceremony, word for word, as it is in the Common-prayer book. I need not tell the reader what happened after the marriage-ceremony between us; but before the old lady, together with the girl, returned, I possessed all that my soul could wish.

It would have been, after that happy day, an impossibility to have found a fonder couple upon earth, each of us being discontented when asunder. For her part, she kept a watchful

she would soon have had it knocked off again. Very often the servant would interrupt miss and me, by coming into the parlour, when her absence would have been very excusable ; but she could not come in, until I had turned the button ; and, when I twisted the spring lock, I commonly gave it a d—n, which gave her no suspicion at all concerning what her young mistres and I was about ; for she would often say, that the lock was spoiled for want of oiling.

I constantly came at eight o'clock in the morning in summer. If miss was not stirring, I hit the ceiling three times with my cane ; she returned the compliment with the heel of her shoe upon her chamber floor. If she did not come down at the first signal, I always played a running bass, which was a signal that I was impatient for her ; that I could not stay, &c. at which she very often would run down stairs, without stays or stockings, and be with me, in that dres, till breakfast time ; then indeed, she always took care to alter her dress.

During the space of a year or two before this time, a great many people were of opinion, that Mr. Doomsday, A. B. of Baliol-College, Oxon, (whom I have made some mention of before) paid his addresses to Parthenissa, and that I was the person who carried on the amour between them. The reason people had for suggesting this, was, that Mr. Doomsday was always talking of her shape,

shape, air, and amiable qualifications: although, by his leave, I was the best judge of her perfections, as well as imperfections. Mr. Doomsday was always fond of my company; and, if any one whatsoever spoke disrespectfully of me, he would be the first that would vindicate me, let the cause be good, bad or indifferent.

All this gave the inhabitants strong reasons to believe, that a match was on foot, as I have mentioned before, and the report reached the ears of the wife of T—— J——. This honest woman was related to Parthenissa, had a hopeful young gentleman to her son, whom, if possible, she intended should espouse Parthenissa; so that she was under a deep concern, lest Mr. Doomsday should marry miss, unknown to her mother. Mrs. J——, who could handle a skewer by far better than a pen, was fully resolved to write Parthenissa a letter. She sent her one by Margaret Morgan, a neighbouring flax-dresser's wife, and ordered her to give it miss, in presence of her mother. The woman brought the letter to Ross, and delivered it according to the directions given her; and, after regaling herself, &c. she returned to Monmouthshire; but whether she carried back an answer or no, I am at a loss to determine. Mrs. P—— asked miss the purport of the letter; miss read it to her: next morning it was imparted to me. To the best of my memory, it was as follows:

Dear

Dear Miss,

I AM informed, there is one Mr. Doomsday, a lawyer's son, that pays his respects to you. The persons that informed me of it, said, they were positive of it; and that your mamma is no way acquainted with it. I therefore beg your answer by the bearer, whether there is any thing in the report or no; and you must not be angry with me, if I write to your mamma about it. I am sure if you carry on this intrigue, and marry without your friends consent, your brother will never leave you a farthing's worth of any thing that he is possessed of. I beg you will favour me with a line, by Margaret Morgan. My respects to your mamma; and am really your friend and kinswoman,

Penrose, May
1734.

E— J—.

P. S. I am well informed, that the person who carries letters between you, is a young man that comes very often to your house, so would have you consider what you are about.

This letter was dictated (as miss and myself imagined) by the husband. As I only retained it by memory, I hope Mrs. J— will excuse the spelling part, it being impossible for me to give it letter for letter, by reason of my not having the original. Be that as it will, I was very much concerned at the curiosity

curiosity of the good woman, because I thought it would prove of ill consequence to me.

Parthenissa assured me, her mamma took no manner of notice of the letter, well knowing that there was nothing of truth in what J—'s wife had written. But I was the supposed person that carried the letters too and fro. "And (added miss) mamma will send her an answer; and will beg the favour of her to mind her own business; for mamma says, I am capable enough of taking care of myself; if I was not, she should not take Mrs. J—'s advice in managing of me, &c."

If my memory fails me not, Mrs. P— did write to Monmouthshire, but to the purport I am entirely a stranger.

The latter end of July, 1734, one Mrs. H— of Putley, in Herefordshire, a near relation of Mrs. P—'s, with her two daughters, came to pay Mrs. P— and miss a visit of four or five weeks; during which time, I thought myself very unhappy in being debarred miss's company (I mean alone) but when the visitors returned, was as happy with her, as I used to have been before their coming.

I was very often (this year) obliged to go to Monmouth, Hereford, Gloucester, &c. but before I did set out for either of those places, I always went to take my leave of her; at which times she would put a piece of gold into my breeches pocket. This was with

with an intent that I should keep her lovely idea always in my sight ; and that I should not, even in my thoughts, stray from her, nor offer any immodesty to any woman whatsoever. Whenever I came off my journey, I always returned her the piece of gold, which she kept till my next ride out. This piece of gold, with two more, were found in the rafters of an old house of her father's. It was struck in the reign of king Henry the Sixth, or Seventh, and on the one side is represented Michael, the archangel, treading the serpent under foot, and piercing him with a spear. On the reverse, is a ship at sea, having the arms of England struck in the shrouds. A farther description of the piece may be seen in Rapin de Thoyras's history of England, translated by the rev. Mr. Tindal, rector of Great Waltham, in Essex.

Upon the 2d of August, I went, as usual, to Parthenissa ; and, to my very great surprize, found her in tears. " My lovely angel (said I) what is it that has moved thee into tears ?" " Alas ! (said she, with a sorrowful sigh) if what I have heard this day be true, I am the most miserable creature upon earth." " For heaven's sake (said I) my lovely angel, do not torture me by delay, in not telling me what has ruffled thy temper." Well (says she) since you will know, you shall ; Mrs. M—— called upon me yesterday, and begged I would take a walk with

her

her as far as Mr. K——'s summer-house. We had no sooner reached the parsonage-fields, but she told me, if I would promise not to mention what she should say to me, she would tell me a secret. I promised her I would not discover any thing that she should tell me. Why then, says Mrs. M—, I have been informed that Mr. Parry has said in open company, he could marry you when he pleased, but that he did not like you." Who told you so? says I to her: Mrs. M—— told me, I should hear more of the matter, when she had spoke with the people that mentioned it to her. I told Mrs. M—— I could not believe it. She assured me, she heard it; so we came home together. She did not stay long with me, and here I have been crying almost ever since."

This melancholy and false piece of news almost thunder-struck me; insomuch, that I was for some considerable time incapable of speaking, especially to see her burst out into tears afresh, leaning her head on my bosom. After recovering myself a little, I sat down upon a chair, with her upon my lap. "Dost thou, my angel (said I) think that I ever could harbour such a thought of thee, or ever said any such thing of thee? I, who love thee as my soul, and art dearer to me than my eyes; dost thou, my dearest, imagine, that one who is as constant to thee as the swelling tides are to the moon, could

be so base to mention so vile an expression of thee? No, my angel, I never said any such thing; and, if you can find out by Mrs. M——, the author of so vile a falacy, I will be d—d if I do not do myself justice, by being revenged upon him or her, let it be whom it will." " My dear Jemmy (said she) do not put thyself into a passion, for I never will, neither can I think thee so silly, to mention me in a degrading manner, even among thy most intimate friends and acquaintance. But (added she) do not speak a word of this affair to any one breathing, lest it should come to mamma's ears, then we shall be undone for ever." I promised Parthenissa I never would; and she, in the interim, expected to hear something more of the false report, by Mrs. M——; but, to my knowledge, she never did. For my part, I never could find out the monster that invented the lye. I told it Mrs. M——, and have too good an opinion of her, to think that she invented it. But however, to put a gloss upon our amour, or any false report that might for the future arise, Parthenissa advised me to visit Mrs. J—— B——, a milliner, by which means people would quickly surmise that I courted her; " So that, says Parthenissa, will blind mamma, and I shall always have the pleasure, till we are lawfully married, to have thee with me."

I thought what she had said carried a great deal of reason with it. According to her desire,

desire, I often went to Mrs. B——'s ; and, in a very little time, her father was really uneasy, for fear of my marrying his daughter, or something else ; and, it was the opinion of several, that I courted her. Mrs. P—— firmly believed the thing to be fact, and has said to Mrs. B—— and myself, that we should be an agreeable couple, and that she would with pleasure give us our wedding dinner. Miss told her mamma, that she hoped to be at my wedding : " With all my heart (says the old lady) I will give them their dinner, which shall consist of half a dozen dishes of meat (she then named them) besides pies, puddings, &c." At which Mrs. B—— would say, " Lord, madam, there is nothing in it ; I do assure you, it is all lies : do you think any body would be troubled with such a wild, crazy thing, as Parry is ? &c." Say what she would, Mrs. P—— believed it to be a match between us.

Parthenissa, after the time of her contamination, was often fearful of being pregnant, her health, &c. not being so regular, as in the time of her virginity. She would often complain of a pain in her head, though really in the bowels. Her mother would often advise her to be blooded ; she always declined it. One day I said to her, " My dear, why will you not suffer yourself to be blooded, it would be of great service to you ?" " Ah ! thou fool (said she smiling) thou knowest but little of the matter ; for, was I to bleed

at

at this time, I am afraid of somewhat (meaning her being with child) that would be the way to spoil my shape ; for when the ignorant country girls are afraid that they are got with child, the first thing they do, is to be blooded, and that is the only way to hasten a child, instead of wasting it." "But, my dear (says I) as you are timorous, and often fancy yourself to be breeding, had we not better be lawfully married, the first opportunity ; lest, by thy proving with child, we shall bring ignominy upon ourselves, and upon the innocent babe too?" This question I have put to her an hundred times : her constant answer would be, " My dearest boy, thou hast my soul and body, and where is the occasion of thy being in such a hurry, as long as there is no danger of thy losing me?" This answer I thought satisfactory enough, otherwise should not have cared for deferring the thing, as I afterwards did.

The first Tuesday in September, the triennial music-meeting was held at Worcester. I would have gone there, but she would not by any means suffer me ; and as the races at Monmouth were to begin the following week, I was fully bent upon going, and told her my intentions ; hoping, that as I complied with her request, in not going to Worcester, she would by no means hinder me from going to Monmouth. "Would to heaven (said she) that I had let thee gone

to Worcester (for by this time, the music-meeting lasting but three days, was over) because Mrs. Betty Dew has asked mamma to let me go to Monmouth races with her, and mamma very willingly gave me leave, and we are to lodge at Mr. M——e, the maltster's, who is a near relation of Mrs. Betty Dew's; therefore, dear Mr. Parry (said she) stay at home, this one time: let me go to Monmouth, and I will never desire to go any where again, unless thou art with me; for shouldst thou go there, I should run distracted, for fear of thy kissing some pretty girl or other." After I had paused a little, " Well, my dear (said I) to oblige you I will stay at home; but I insist upon this, that you refuse dancing with any one; for I am positive Mr. Doomsday will be there, and will (not that I imagine you would give him any liberty) offer himself a partner to you. As you love me, mark what I say; do not dance with any one." " My dear (said she) I will not." So when the appointed time came for their setting out, I saw them safely mounted, wishing them good diversion, &c. I soon enquired of the Monmouth post-boy, who lived with Mr. Pye, of the King's arms inn, whether he had seen miss at the ball, or playhouse; and whether she had danced with any one. Now Monmouth is one of the prettiest meetings, I believe, in England; the balls and cold treats always very elegant, are given by his grace the

the duke of Beaufort, and the right Hon. lord Noel Somerset, his grace's brother; and any person of either sex, tolerably well dressed, has admittance. This was the reason of my asking the post-boy, for I knew him to be an arch wag, known by the name of my lord Farnaby, a lover of news; a boy that, if possible, would let nothing go unespied. The boy soon satisfied my curiosity, by telling me, he had seen Mr. Doomsday and Parthenissa here, there, and every where; said he, Mrs. Betty Dew was with them, and Mr. Doomsday did nothing but bow and scrape, all the while he was in the Homm (a field where the horses run) in the play-house, and in the ball-room; but miss would not dance with him, or with any person. I satisfied lord Farnaby for his information; but began to be very uneasy at her absence, because she had left Ross five, although she had given me her word to return in three days; upon which, I writ her a letter (see letter, Numb. IV.) and sent it by the boy, who at six o'clock in the evening, gave it into her own hands, as I had ordered him; upon the receipt of which, although very much pressed to stay by Mrs. M—e, Mrs. Dew, and others, she had her cloaths packed up, and, together with Mr. Doomsday's brother and Miss Dew, came to Ross, which was not till near ten o'clock at night. I really pitied them when they came home, which was upon a Saturday, for they were

all wet to the skin ; and, if my memory does not betray me, Mrs. Dew's face was very bloody, being scratched by the briars, in riding through the narrow roads.

Upon Monday morning I went to see miss, who asked me how I could be so barbarous to frighten her, by sending her such a letter to Monmouth ? I assured her (though I was not in earnest) that if she had not come home when she did, I would have set out myself ; because the thoughts of Mr. Doomsday's gallanting her, had been very disagreeable to me. " Thou fond fool (said she) if thou hadst not sent the letter, I should not have staid above a day or two longer. Mr. Doomsday was very civil to me, and by his over and above complaisance, he had the misfortune to lose his diamond ring."

I spent the evenings, as I had done the winter before, at Mrs. P—'s, playing at cards with Mrs. M—, Mrs. Dew, &c. and came off always with a winning hand, by the method which miss and I used, as before-mentioned. Mrs. M— would often fall into a passion, and say, she was sure that miss and myself had signs, whereby we played what cards suited our hands best, or else it would have been an impossibility for us to have called each other at Quadrille, so often as we did. Miss would pretend to be in a greater passion than Mrs. M—, and would tell her, that we called each other merely by chance. I believe Mrs. M— was of a quite different

different opinion ; however, she never declared (to my hearing) her thoughts.

One night in particular, I had like to have caused a strong suspicion of my being very familiar with miss, in the following manner : whenever we played, I always sat at her right-hand, would fix my left-knee between her's : but that night she stretched out her feet under the table. Her mother, who sat opposite to her, did the same. I wanted to sit in the usual position, so laid my foot upon her mother's, thinking it had been her's, and squeezed it as hard as I possibly could ; at which the old lady cried out, " Oh, Lord ! Mr. Parry, you have almost murthered my corns." " Good God ! madam (says I, half dead with confusion) I heartily beg your pardon, I really thought it had been the table frame." " Lord (said she) you tread very heavy ; but, as it happened, you have done me no great damage." For miss's part, she was under a greater concern than I was, and did not speak for some minutes ; and all the time we played that night (after the mistake happened) she held the cards as high as her face, lest the rest should see the concern she was in. When I came to her next morning, she begged of me, for God's sake, to take care for the future, how I placed my feet ; " For (said she) it was by the squeezing of the feet, that the amour between the right Hon. the lord C—, and the lady S— was found out, as

they were playing at cards." I took miss's advice, and never, after that time, gave myself such liberty with the old lady.

I had been by this time organist of Ross very nigh five years, had received no more than a year and a quarter's salary; and, as I had contracted several debts in the town, with mercers, taylor, &c. I was fully determined to be no longer without my money, especially since my money was to be raised by subscription. I made my application to Mr. Hodges, an attorney, and some other gentlemen, who were my friends, in order to have my salary paid me. The gentlemen were so good as to go about it immediately; and, whilst the subscription-money was gathering, a potent adversary of mine, one F—r, would have insinuated to the people, that as soon as I was paid my money, I would sell the town, i. e. go off without paying my debts. The persons, knowing the difference between him and me, made him no other answer, than that there was no manner of danger in my leaving Ross, were my debts as much again.

Had I owed that fellow any thing (whom I know to be a r—, and a conceited solemn coxcomb) it would have given me no manner of uneasiness; but, as I had no manner of dealings with the paltroon, I own it vexed me. However, soon after, a friend of mine assured me, the persons who were raising my money, were resolved to have those

those to whom I was indebted together, and that I was to receive my money in their presence, in order to satisfy their demands. This nettled me. I was not so ill-beloved, but that I could get money for sending for it, so was resolved to pay my debts, before I received my salary. For that purpose, I writ to the best of sisters, and to another relation, who immediately remitted me money, wherewith I paid all my debts in the town, except one of eleven pounds to my landlord, and took receipts of them, no persons but themselves knowing any thing of the matter, for I had enjoined them to secrecy. I had notice given me in a day or two, to meet the gentlemen at the King's-Head inn, where my creditors were likewise to be, in order for my being paid, and for my paying my debts. I had given orders to those that I had paid, to lye dormant. When I came to meet the gentlemen, there was but one creditor appeared (I really had forgot to have made mention of him before) who was Mr. P—e, a peruke-maker; and if he and I had not had a dispute before, concerning a mistake he had made in his bill, he would have had as little business there as the rest, whom I had already paid. The gentlemen were surprised at my having paid almost every body; and assured me, that what they had intended was for my advantage, and that the creditors should have abated me something of their bills; but I

(looking upon myself now as a gentleman) was quite of another opinion ; so paid every one to their full satisfaction.

In a month's time after I received my money, I went to the parish-meeting, where the rector, churchwardens, &c. were, and delivered up the keys of the organ, telling them, that I would willingly farther serve them, provided they would pay me constantly yearly, or half yearly, but that I would not go upon such uncertainties as I had formerly done : if they could not raise a salary, I could not afford to play for nothing ; so the organ was silenced. In the interim, I one day beckoned to a woman who lodged at my laundress's ; she came to me ; I begged the favour of her to tell her landlady, that I wanted a clean shirt, that I was obliged to go a little way out of town. The woman complied with my request, and presently brought the shirt herself. Parthenissa, being naturally very jealous, accidentally happened to be at Mr. N— F—'s, a chandler's, and upon her seeing me with the woman, imagined me to be familiar with her. She went home in a hurry, and transcribed some verses of Mr. Waller's, in his Maid's Tragedy. The next day, upon my coming to her, she dropped me a curtsey, and gave me a written paper (see letter, Numb. V.) saying, "Sir, here is a present for you." After I had read it, I made her a low bow, and said, "Madam, what the devil do you mean by

by writing such rhodomantical lines to me?" " You know (said she) Mr. Parry, they suit me, for that I am forsaken by you, you very well know." " What grounds have you, my dear (said I) for saying that I have forsaken you?" " I can believe my own eyes (said she) for I saw you whisper with a pretty woman yesterday in the street; she had on a bed-gown made of white dimity; and your not coming near me till now, makes me believe you have all this time been with her." " I solemnly protest to my dearest (said I) that I have been at Mr. Edwards of White-fields, an old scholar of mine, who lives about three miles off, and what I spake to the woman was no more than to desire Hannah Lee to send me a shirt." " Art thou sincere? said she." " Yes, I am (said I) as I hope for salvation;" at which she seemed well satisfied. But an accident followed, which had well nigh gone to have separated us for ever.

Upon the 16th of December, 1734, I spent a whole night with some friends from Hereford, at the house of Richard Hagar, known by the name of the Anchor. I went the next morning to Mrs. P——'s: miss was gone out to breakfast at Mrs. Dew's. She was still possessed with the spirit of jealousy, and was very uneasy. At night I went there again, and found Mrs. Jane Birch, the milliner, at cards, with Mrs. P—— and miss. I asked them severally how they did; they, excepting miss, returned the

compliment. She frowned, and turned her face from me with an air of indifference. Presently afterwards Mrs. P— went out to order supper in. I then thought it a fit time to be even with miss, so clasped Mrs. Birch in my arms, crying (to make miss imagine that that was the woman's name, of whom she was jealous) Oh, Nancy, Nancy, Nancy! With that I left the room. Next morning miss went to Mr. N— F—'s, and saw the woman with the bed-gown pass by the door. She made an enquiry who she was, and where she lodged: at last she was informed, that she lodged at the Anchor. This was the same house where I happened to sit up the whole night, two days before. Miss, after having received this information, went home, and sent the servant (Pen) to fetch Mr. J—h J—s, her stay-maker. He came; she begged, that he would oblige her so far, as to go to the sign of the Anchor, and enquire whether I had lain there such a night or not. He told her, he did not care to do the errand, because he had nothing to do with where I lodged, or what I did, and so went home. But miss sent the maid with some money to give him, telling him, it was only a curiosity of miss's, and that miss would take it as a favour, if he would oblige her, and that there was no harm in the affair. Mr. J—s, rather than lose a good customer, accepted of the money, in order to make the enquiry, to spend it at the house.

house. Mr. Jos. J—s, being what they call a dry chap, went. After having drank a pint or two of ale, he introduced my name in the discourse. At last, said he to the landlady, "Mrs. Hagar, I hear news." "What news, I pray (says the woman.)" "Why (says he) one of the High Town lodgers (for Ross is distinguished, I mean as to the streets, by no other name than the High Town, and the Brookeing) is come to lodge with you." "That cannot be (said the woman) I have no constant lodger: but, added she, who is it you mean?" "Efaith (says he) it is reported, that Mr. Parry actually lodges here." "The devil is in people's tongues, I think (says Mrs. Hagar) they will say any thing, but their prayers; Mr. J—s, there is nothing in it; he hardly ever uses the house, and was never in my house all night, but once, in his life, and that was a night or two ago; and here he stayed till nine o'clock the next morning, &c." This was all that he wanted to know. He immediately acquainted Mrs. P—'s servant of it, who quickly told her young mistress of this mighty piece of news.

The first thing she did afterwards, was laying hands upon a music-book of mine, called the Opera of Julius Cæsar, and tore it three parts through. Upon the 19th, I went to Mrs. P—'s, where I found miss in tears, sat to the spinnet. I laid my hand round her neck, embraced her; then asked,

what had ruffled her temper to that degree, to force tears from her ; at which she fetch'd a deep sigh, and unpinned her handkerchief, then shew'd me a paper which was in her bosom : "Take that (said she) and read it ; you will see what ails me." I took the paper out of her bosom ; she still shedding tears, quitted the room ; begging, "That if I could bear the sight of her, not to go away before I had read it over." When I had perused the paper (see letter, Numb. VI.) I went into the church-yard, not knowing what to do, or how to behave myself towards her. My thoughts were distracted. After I had ruminated upon her conduct and my own, I made a resolution never to go to her house any more ; so far did her uncommon stiled letter work upon me. But being willing to part genteely with her, I wrote her a letter (see letter, Numb. VII.) and while she was with her mother at church, I stepped up to their house, and put it in the inside of the spinnet. She quickly found it out. It drove her almost distracted. She came hourly to Mr. Dew's, a sadler, and Mr. N— F—'s, a chandler's, thinking to see, and speak with me ; but to no purpose, till the 22d of December, being at the Post-Office door, she came from Mr. F—'s, called to me, and said, she wanted to speak to me. When I came to her, "For God's sake, Mr. Parry (said she) come to our house, for I want to speak with you upon

upon an extraordinary affair." "Madam (says I) you have already given me a great deal of uneasiness, without any just reason for your so doing: I have made a firm resolution never more to darken your doors." With that I made her a bow, and instantly left her, lest her alluring speeches should soften me again into folly. She, irritated at my behaviour, immediately went home. The first thing she did, was putting the spinnet out of tune, and breaking some of the strings, at which she had a very good hand, so that there was an impossibility of playing upon it. Soon afterwards, in the mother's hearing, she bid the servant come to me, in order to let me know the condition the instrument was in, and to beg that I would come up, and put it in order. The servant delivered me her message; and added, "That miss desired me of all loves in the world (a common phrase among the meaner sort of people in Herefordshire, &c.) to come to their house, for that she wanted to speak with me sadly." I would have excused myself, by telling her, I was engaged that afternoon; but the servant would take no denial; go I must, and go I did, where I found miss alone in the parlour. "Madam (said I, pretending an indifference) you was pleased to send for me by your maid Pen; I have waited upon you, to know your business." Ah! (said she, after fetching a deep sigh) how can you ask me, why I sent for

for you, when you know it is death to be without you? If you are resolved never to come near me any more, kill me out-right, I shall be happy." " My dear angel (said I) I am really very much concerned at your uneasiness ; but this being the last time that I ever intend doing myself the pleasure of waiting upon you, I shall explain myself to you in few words : My not coming near you for a day or two, has given you, I imagine, some uneasiness ; and, by your letter, you are jealous of the strange woman : I take heaven to witness, that what I have written to you in my letter is fact, and have not had carnal knowledge of any woman, excepting yourself, since the time I was first blest in your arms ; and, do assure you, that from the very beginning, my affection to you has been as honest, as amorous. You must not take it amiss, as it is impossible for me to get an handsome livelihood in this town, if I go to some other part of the world, to try my fortune ; but was in hopes, and flattered myself to have ended my days in this country. You know (continued I) that I have often proposed lawful marriage to you, which you have as often declined ; therefore, as I have by me cloaths, linnen, and money to carry me any where, I am fully bent upon setting out next week, and have bespoke (which was false I own) a horse for that purpose. Your usage to me, in your long letter (said I) has surprisingly shocked
me ;

me ; but that, and every thing else that has past between us, shall, for my part, die, and rest in eternal oblivion. So, dear madam, I take my leave of you, the most sacred treasure of my soul, wishing you plenitude of joys, and an immortal series of happiness." Here I tenderly embraced her ; and, I confess, with the utmost reluctance was going out of the room. At that she ran between me and the door, clung round my neck, wetting my cheeks with her tears, crying, " Dear, dear Mr. Parry, if you have any thoughts of leaving me you will break my heart. If you leave me (added she, still hanging about my neck) and not kill me, I will kill myself ; therefore, for heaven's sake, do not torture me, but let me know what your real intentions are, whether you will leave me, or stay with me. By all the love you ever bore me, I beg you will quiet my scruples." Here she clasped me in her arms, hugged me to her breast, and wept most bitterly.

O the bewitching charms of womankind, that even their weakness should conquer our strongest resolves ! how easily is vain man drawn into a belief of his being beloved ! We take forty declarations of their indifference or hatred, for effects only of their modesty ; and the first confession of their love, we presently credit : when, alas ! their profession of the latter, is often as false as the former.

Had

Had my heart been made of the most obdurate marble, here it must have melted. Taking her in my arms, I put her on a chair, and sat down by her; "My lovely angel (said I) what would you have me do? You refuse marrying me, and are always jealous of me, without any just occasion. I am now out of debt, and can call every thing I have mine own; therefore, if you will not be married to me (for as we go on now it will never do, especially if we are caught in each other's arms, we are gone for ever) I must and will set out some where or other from hence." "Well my dearest (said she, taking me by the hand) if you will stay in Ross, be constant to me, and love me as well as you have done, by heaven and all that is sacred, I will marry you in what manner you please next summer, for I am convinced, that you do not know any thing of the woman of whom I was jealous." "My dear (said I) I must needs tell you, I think you were a little silly in being jealous of (as you say) a common woman. I never was, neither will, ever be familiar with such loose ones, lest I should taste of the bitter grapes such gardens often produce, and by that means ruin my fair one's body, as well as my own; and, which would be still as bad, or worse, her reputation." She was extremely well satisfied with me. After many vows of constancy between us, with her solemn protestations of marrying me the summer follow-

ing,

ing, we were thoroughly reconciled, and sealed our friendship with numberless kisses, &c. At the same time, there was an agreement made between us, which was, that I should go to no house she disliked, neither was she to visit, or go to any house, for whose inhabitants I had no regard. I took my leave of her for that day, begging her (as I had hurted my right thumb) to write a letter of thanks to my eldest sister, for an handsome present that she lately had sent me. That she must date the letter two or three days back, because my sister had required an answer, by the return of the post. Miss writ her one, as I had desired; and, in about a fortnight afterwards another. But, as those letters are foreign to the matter in hand, I have not inserted them, though I had them returned in 1737, from Exeter, in order, if there should have been occasion, to have proved her hand-writing.

There was, this winter, a company of comedians at Ross. To oblige some of my acquaintance, I acted a part among them. I, soon afterwards, bought a benefit of them, i. e. gave them so much for the house, and chose the Beggar's Opera for my play; wherein (after having the liberty from Parthenissa, who was at J— C—, Esq; two miles out of town) I performed the part of Captain Macheath; and wanting a cambrick handkerchief, I borrowed one of Mrs. B—, the milliner. Before the play was over,
Miss

Miss P—y, or Miss L—y, made a shift to pocket it for me, insomuch that I could never after set eyes on it ; and when I came to pay Mrs. B—h her bill, she charged me five shillings for her handkerchief, although it was an old one ; upon which we quarrelled, and I refused paying her her bill ; but went to Mr. Doomsday, begging the favour of him to pay her ; for I swore I would not. Mr. Doomsday obligingly did so, and soon afterwards, I saw Mrs. B—h at Mrs. P—'s, who came to see miss. Here I could not forbear shewing my resentment, by my not being so complaisant as usual to her. Miss had informed her mother of the quarrel, before we came ; " Ay, ay (says the old lady) the falling out of lovers is the renewing of love ; they only pretend to be out of humour before us, but I will warrant ye, when they get in a corner, they will be hugging and kissing one another." Mrs. B— and myself assured Mrs. P— that she was very much mistaken ; and I am sure, miss would have sworn, that what I had said was sincere. But such was the spleen of an agreeable little devil ! in two or three days time, she came to visit miss again, and told her, that several people wondered how Mrs. P— gave me the liberty of scolding at any body that had affronted me, especially talking rude to her (Mrs. B—h) when I had been there last. " Why really, Mrs. Jenny, (says Parthenissa) mamma never saw nor heard any harm of him ;

him; and in all the quarrels that he has had with the town's people, we never could hear that he began first: the town used him scandalously, by keeping him out of his money so long as they did; and as long as he behaves himself well at our house, I do assure you, I believe he will always meet with a hearty welcome." "But miss (said Mrs. B—h) I have something to tell you, that concerns you nearly:" "Pray what is it? (said miss.)" "Will you promise never to speak on it? (says the other.)" "I never will, (said miss) if the secret is worth keeping." "Why then (said Mrs. B—h) it is the report of the town, that Mr. Parry is going to be married to you; and some people assure it for matter of fact." "I am very much obliged to the town (says miss) for the choice they have made me, but wish they had some business of their own to mind, then, possibly, they might have no time to invent falsehoods." "I said there was nothing in it, (said B—h), but was informed that Mr. Parry should say, that he could marry you at any time." "Pray, who was your author? (says miss.)" The other would not tell, but assured her, that she actually was told it. "I am positive (says Parthenissa) that Mr. Parry never said, and never thought of any such thing; neither do I thank any person for giving themselves any manner of concern about me: and I believe, for Mr. Parry's part, he is in the same way of thinking."

This

This visit was upon New-year's-day, 1734-5; the day following, I went to Parthenissa; she seriously asked me, if I ever had made any mention of her name in any company? "Yes I have (says I) as a scholar of mine, that plays well, and not in any other shape; no, not even to Mr. L—s, who knows every other secret of my soul, have I said any thing more of my dear angel." "Why then (says she) J—y B—h is a little, sawcy, impudent chit; she was here yesterday, and told me the Lord knows what. (Here miss related what I have before-mentioned.) I was a little fearful of thy having a liking to her (said she) but now am satisfied to the contrary; I believe she invented that great lie, in order to make me quarrel with thee; but I insist (added she) upon your not taking any notice of what I have informed you, to our maid Pen, for she tells mamma all she hears; and pray do not offer to kiss J—y B—h, nor go near her house; but be civil to her, when she comes here, lest she tells mamma the same lie she told me; then the Lord knows what will become of us." "My dearest (said I, embracing her) I will carry myself towards J—y, and every one else, exactly as you will have me do." "Do that (said she) and all I have is thine, &c."

There lived in Ross one Mrs. M—n, (formerly H— D—, a mantua-maker) a beautiful woman. She formerly had taken too much freedom in talking of me, by which means

means she had made me loath her; but in regard to her husband, who was a surgeon, (and one that I often kept company with) I behaved civilly to her. There was to be a private dancing-match at Mr. M——n's; the company were to consist of Mr. T——G——, a surgeon from London, Mr. Doomsday, Mr. T——L——, mercer, and others. I understood, by Mr. M——n's servant, that Parthenissa was to be asked to come to the match; as soon as I had heard it, I was resolved to prevent, if possible, her going, upon Mrs. M——n's account. I went to her betimes, the day the dancing was. After a little talk; "My angel (said I) the agreement between us is, I am not to go into any house that you have the least dislike to, neither are you to go into any house, or company, contrary to my inclinations." "Yes, my dear, (said she) I remember it very well, and hope you will not go any where to make me uneasy, and I never will go any where without your consent, unless it is to the Hill, or to my uncle D——; for you are not to be angry at my going there at any time." "No, no, my dear, (said I); but there is dancing to be at Mr. M——n's this night; you are to be asked to come there; I insist upon your not going; if you have any affection for me, you will oblige me by staying within this day and night." "I will oblige you (said she) and, to tell you the truth, I have been already asked, but I will by no means go." I staid

staid that day with her, from nine in the morning until five in the afternoon. I then left her, and returned again at nine at night, but, to my very great surprise, her mother (after asking for her) told me, she was gone to Mr. M——n's, to dance. It was with the greatest of difficulties that I forbore cursing of her to her mother's face. "I am sorry, madam (says I) that miss is gone thither; for there are not (excepting Mr. Doomsday) any there, but what are W——l——n's disciples." "Indeed, Mr. Parry, (said she) if I had known that such company was to have been there, my daughter should not have gone; but hope she will not stay long, because I charged her to be at home before eleven o'clock." I took my leave, and went back to my company, very much dissatisfied. In an hour's time, returned to Mrs. P——'s, and asked the maid privately, if miss was come home; she answered, No. I went away, swearing that I would, in some measure, spoil their diversion; so went to the town hall (near to Mr. M——n's) and heard them very busy, jumping and capering. Their music was a harp, played by one Ned Williams, a barber, and one who could aim at no other tune than that called Old Barnaby. They had a great deal of laughing at the barbarous music, and the fellow had ten times more afterwards, at their giving him three shillings and sixpence; very illy deserved. I searched the streets for something to

to break the windows, but to no purpose ; at last, I went into the King's-Arms-Inn yard, and found a piece of an old jointed stool, which I flung up (aiming at the window, which I missed) against the house, which was a timber one. The old stool made no small noise, and the dancers were so surprised, that they, at first, thought the house was tumbling about their ears. Says one, “ In the name of God, (a miracle !) What can it be ? or where should it come from ?” “ I really cannot tell (says another.) ” Parthenissa guessed, though she said nothing ; but took her cloak, and away home as fast as possible, leaving the rest to think, and stare at each other. “ I will be hanged, (says Mrs. M—n, after pausing some time) if it was not Mr. Parry, that flung up something to break the windows.” “ No, no (says another) it cannot be him ; I am sure he would do no such thing, because Parthenissa was in company.” However, I was so very expeditious about what I had done, that I was hardly missed from my company ; and being the next day taxed about it, Mr. E. L—s, and Mr. W. H—s (an attorney) in whose company I had been the night before, protested, and said, they were positive I was not near to Mr. M—n’s house the foregoing night ; that I had spent the night entirely in their company.

I was vexed to that degree, at miss’s going to dance, that in short I did not care what I did ;

did ; I sat up all night ; the next morning, I went to Mrs. P——'s, resolving to tongue-claw miss, for her breach of promise. I went into the parlour, when, to my great surprise, I found Mr. Doomsday with her. Seeing him there, instead of mitigating my passion, it made me tentimes worse. " So madam (says I) you went a dancing last night, although you protested to the contrary yesterday, to me ; I return you my thanks for favouring the company with your presence." Mr. Doomsday rowled his eye-balls, and stared like a stuck pig. Miss, in a great confusion, said, " Mr. Parry, for shame, do not talk so silly ; surely you have been drinking all night." " If I have (said I) it was you that drove me to it, by caressing those that would not stick to m——er me, provided it could be done with safety ; and you rather chuse the company of a parcel of poor mantua-making b——es, than such an one as M——y L——s, who is, by much, the best bred, the most modest, the most beautiful of all the town girls : you hate her for being handsome, and was affronted at her, (together with Miss C——n) because she laughed at your dog Harlequin." Parthenissa (lifting up her eyes) said, " Pray, Mr. Parry, step into the kitchen, mamma wants to speak with you." " I do not care (says I) who wants to speak with me, nor where I go ;" with that, I left the room to themselves. After I was gone, Mr. Doomsday told her, he was afraid, if I went

on

on at that rate. I should not stick to ill use my most intimate friends. "Really Sir (said she) he always speaks very handsome of your family, especially of Mr. W—te's, of New Weare, &c." Next day, Mr. Doomsday sent to me, to know if I intended to go that week, to teach miss W—te; if I did, he would go with me, upon naming my day. I sent my service to him; that I should be proud of his company to New Weare, the day following.

As we were upon the road; "Pox take you (says he to me) for a crazy dog; what made you come to Mrs. P——'s in the manner you did yesterday?" "I'faith (said I) it was because she went to Mr. M——n's the other night; and you know that Mrs. M——n and I are two. I have taken care that she does not come often to Mrs. P——'s; and if it had been in my power to have hindered miss from going there, I would have done it." "Hang you (said Mr. Doomsday) if you had not been in such a passion, when you came in, I would have begged of miss to have played a tune or two, &c." So after some farther talk about miss's excellencies, he told me, that he had been buying a new suit of cloaths, (trimmed with frosted buttons) at N——las F——r's, and that Nicholas advised him, as it was privately reported, that he was going to be married to such a one, (meaning Parthenissa) to have the suit lined with white shagreen; "and (added Mr.

Doomsday) my sister Hodges, and my sister D—s, gave me some rubs about it, but I laughed them out of it."

Poor Mr. Doomsday, (thinks I) thou mayest laugh and cry, and laugh again, but to my knowledge thou will not have any chance there; for I have sprung the mine. But what surprises me most is, that a man of Mr. Doomsday's sense could not see (by my late indiscreet behaviour at Mrs. P——'s) that he had no manner of business there. But love is blind; and he now is as fully convinced of his folly, in making (or harbouring any thoughts of) love to her, as I now am of her falsehood and perfidiousness.

The day following I came to Parthenissa; made her a bow, and sat down by her, but did not speak one word to her. "Mr. Parry, (said she languidly) I know you are very angry with me; but I beg you will not be in a passion with me again, (for you terrified me enough when Mr. Doomsday was here) and I will tell you how I came to go there. As I have told you before, I was asked to come to the dancing, and about an hour before it began, mamma asked me why I did not put myself in readiness to go? I told her, I was very indifferent about the matter; and immediately Mrs. M——n, N——y, and D——y D—— came, and begged and prayed of me to come; and they afterwards pressed mamma, who, to avoid being teized to death by them, made me go with them;
and

and while I was there, my limbs trembled every minute, for fear you should come there, and scold at me before them all. So, dear Mr. Parry, do not be angry with me now, and I will never go there again, for your sake." I was soon reconciled; and, after a little chat, I asked her, if Mr. Doomsday had made love to her? she assured me he had not; and that they talked not of any thing, but what had happened at the dancing match, and what, on all sides, hath been said of me. I wanted to write (that day) a song out of the Opera of Julius Cæsar, and looked for the book, but could not by any means find it. I asked her if she had seen it any where? she blushed, and could make me no manner of answer. "My dear (said I) if you know where it is, tell me." "I am really afraid to tell you (said she) for I am sure you will fly into a passion with me about the book." "My dearest (said I) I shall not be uneasy about it, let what will become of it. What, have you lost it, or lent it to any body?" "Since you have promised not to be angry (said she) I will tell you. You must know then, that I have done worse than lending or losing of it; for when I was jealous of that nasty huzzey in the bed-gown, I tore your book through and through." "Well, my dear (says I) it is needless crying after shed milk; bring me the book as it is." She did so, and it was tore sure enough, with a vengeance.

M— P— (whom I have made mention of before, to have been miss's brother, by the father, but not the mother's side) was in London from the beginning of 1733, 'till May, 1735, sueing (happily for him) for a dead wife's portion. He had appointed a notable woman, whose name was C—n, to be his country housekeeper; and fearing that things in the country should run to rack and manger, he likewise sent down one Mr. R— J—, (a facetious man, well known to several in the country) to look after his farms, &c. This person had not been long at Llantillio, before he was enamoured of Mrs. C—n; made his addresses to her; and, in a short time, was (by the reverend Mr. V—n, of L—th) married to her, but in a very private manner.

Mrs. P—, soon after, sent her servant Pen to Monmouthshire, in order to dunn the tenants; and whilst Pen was there, she lay at Llantillio's great house. She had not been long there, before she (together with a girl of Brecknockshire) found that Mrs. C—n (as they called her) never lay in her own bed, but with Mr. J—, in a room that M— P—, and his spouse, used to lie in, over the kitchen. But before Pen was fully satisfied that the supposed Mrs. C—n lay with Mr. J—, she pinned the sheets together, and nine days afterwards, she found them as she had left them, i. e. in Mrs. C—n's bed-chamber. When Pen came

to

to Ross, she acquainted her mistress of it, who said ; " Tush, if you had but looked over the door that my son and daughter-in-law used to lye in, you would have seen them in bed together ; for the door is, by four or five inches, too short for the door-case ; so that, by the help of a chair, &c. you might easily have seen them." " Well (says Pen) when I go there again, I will certainly see them in bed together ;" and she was as good as her word. All this was imparted to me by Parthenissa.

In the beginning of April, one John J— came to Ross, and complained to Mrs. P— of his ill usage by Mr. R. J— ; and how he was turned out of his place, through his insinuations. Mrs. P— could be of no service to him, as to the regaining of his place, but made him welcome, as to bed and board, at her house, some time. Whilst the old fellow was there, he informed them of the manner of Mr. J— and the supposed Mrs. C—n's way of living ; and intimated to miss and the servant, that it would be a piece of justice in somebody or other, to write to Mr. P— in London, in order to let him know how dangerous a situation his affairs stood in, in Monmouthshire, through the mismanagement of the persons he had entrusted. And as Mrs. P— never had seen my hand-writing, miss, Pen, and John, thought me a proper person to write the letter. John was the first that asked me to write

G 3 it;

it ; but I made him answer, that it was no business of mine, neither would I have any thing to do with it. He informed Pen of my answer, and she told miss ; upon which, she told them, she would undertake that I should do it ; so in about a day or two, she brought me pen, ink, and paper, and a paper ready written ; telling me, I must copy that (meaning the written paper) out, and direct it to her brother. I perused it, and found it was to acquaint him, that Mr. J— and Mrs. C——n lived together as w— and r— ; and that they wasted his substance, starved the servants, made much of their own creatures, and gave every riff-raff Lisbon wine ; when, at the same time, the servants could not get small beer. Then again ; that Mr. J— gave his dogs white bread, when the servants (without great difficulty) could not get brown ; with several other things too numerous for memory to retain. “ Dear miss, (said I) where is the occasion of my writing such a heap of combustibles to your brother, concerning Mr. J—, who is entirely a stranger to me, and one that never did me an injury.” “ You do not know that (said she warmly) for he told mamma, in my hearing, that you lost as fine a voice as any in England, by whores and drinking ; and I can assure you, mamma was in two minds, whether or no you ever should come near me any more ; but I told her, all the town girls said you were very modest, as to that way :

There-

Therefore, Mr. Parry, if you love me, you will write it for me. Besides, if my brother sends him about his business, he will send me to keep his house, until he can be provided with good managers ; and when I am there, you and I can be married, unknown to any body." I was charmed at that saying of her's ; and, had it been ten times worse, it must have been done. I writ it, and gave it her ; and as soon as she delivered it to John J—, he went to Monmouth, and put it into the Post-office. The letter came to Mr. P—, as from a neighbour, and signed T. T.

The house that Mrs. P— lived in, was built of wood, and plastered over, then painted in imitation of brick ; and as she but seldom went from home, was very fond of gazing at strangers, who commonly walked in the church-yard. She begged of me, that if at any time I should be walking with any strangers worth notice, that I would find an excuse to bring them down that side of the church-yard, next to her house ; whereby she might have a full view of them. I very often brought strangers opposite to her door, by telling them, I would shew them a house, that none could guess what the front was built with ; and every one thought it was brick, until I had convinced them to the contrary : so by this means the old lady's curiosity was often satisfied.

In the beginning of March, one C——ly, from Gloucester, came to offer himself as an organist at Ross. If he had been as well acquainted with the temper of the inhabitants, as I was, he would have spared himself both trouble and expence. Not but that I thought him an impudent puppy, for offering himself in a place where I was upon the spot. Some of the inhabitants prevailed upon the churchwardens, to let C——ly try his hand upon the Sunday following. I was obliged to be at Hereford, so could not possibly hear him. I begged that Parthenissa would send me an account of his performance; at the same time, advising her to dictate the letter, in order for the servant's writing to me, to prevent any manner of suspicion. C——ly played, and the Monday following, a letter was sent me. (See No. VIII.) He (having no manner of encouragement) left the town before my return, otherwise I would have had some diversion with him; but I effected my design afterwards in Gloucester. I had not been come from Hereford above a day or two, before Parthenissa informed me of her going to her brother's in Monmouthshire, where she designed to stay a week; and in that time she should be able to give her brother (who was in London) an account how Mr. J——, &c. really managed; but I prevailed upon her to defer her journey until the beginning of May, 1735.

Upon

Upon the 26th of April, 1735, Essex Meyrick, Esq; (a Pembrokeshire gentleman) and his new married lady, came to Ross, in their way home to Wales; and as the gentleman and his lady were exceedingly well dressed, I was resolved that Parthenissa should see them. I ran to her, and told her, if she came to Jenny Birch's, the milliner, she might see a handsome couple, richly dressed, and a genteel equipage with them, at the Swan and Falcon Inn; with that I left her, and went down the town; and in about an hour or two, (knowing her to be at the milliner's) I went up and sat with her mother. I said several things to her, but she sat smoaking her pipe, and made me no manner of answer. I could not imagine the meaning of it, so left her abruptly. I met the maid, and asked her, in the name of heaven, what was the matter with her mistress. "Lord, Mr. Parry, I am sorry with all my heart, that you have asked miss to go out to-day; my mistress is almost mad about it, and is resolved that miss shall never play upon the spinnet any more; but that she shall go to the Hill to board: and my mistress says, that people talk a great deal about miss and you; so that she now is resolved to stop any further clamours." "Look ye, Mrs. Pen (said I) as for people's talking, no one can prevent them; but I am sorry, from the bottom of my soul, that I ever asked her to

come out ; and was it to do again, I would not ask her for an hundred guineas."

I went home, almost distracted with the thoughts of parting with my soul's darling. And as I knew the arrogant temper of her mother, I despaired ever of coming near her any more. I writ her a letter, (see No. IX.) and directed it backwards, (a method she taught me) so I gave it her at Mrs. Birch's. I went at twelve o'clock that night, and whistled an Italian tune under her window, but no one appeared. This was a signal between us ; for when I wanted to speak with her, that was the method I used, to let her know who was near. The next day, (being Sunday) whilst Mrs. P—— and miss were at church, I went to speak with the maid ; she told me, that her mistress had been very angry with me the day before, but that she was pretty well come to her temper again : " But I advise you (said she) to keep off a day or two, and all will be well ; but for God's sake, do not ask miss to go any where again ; neither let her know when any strangers of note are at any of the inns." I assured Pen I would not. So (after leaving a scrap of paper in the spinnet, wherein I had begged of miss to be at her chamber-window, at twelve o'clock that night) parted with the servant, seemingly satisfied ; but was really very much dissatisfied. At twelve, I whistled the tune under her window, but to no purpose. I then flung up some soft dirt against her

her window ; but, alas, that availed me little, for she lay out of hearing. I went to bed, cursing the hour I had seen the gentleman and lady, whose coming through the town had occasioned this. Next day (at church-time) I went to the house, and the maid advised me to come and dine there ; and assured me, that her mistress had forgot all that had passed. I told her, I would come in a day or two, &c. and went into the parlour, and found a letter in the spinnet. (See No. X.) My drooping spirits were now re-animated, and the next day I watched the old lady's going to church ; then ran to her lovely daughter, and caught her in my arms (with the extacy of an Anthony and a Cleopatra) saying ;

“ My life ! my soul ! my all that heav'n can give !

“ Death's life with thee ; without thee, death to live.

FARQUHAR.”

Which two lines we have alternately repeated together a thousand times. But the joy that we had in coming together again was inexpressible. “ As we are once more blessed (said she) with each other's company, I insist upon your coming here to dinner this very day.” “ My lovely angel (said I) I do not think it proper, as yet, to dine with your mamma.” “ Indeed, my dear (said she)

you muft, and shall dine; and I am sure mamma will be pleased with your coming, for we have a breast of veal for dinner. Mamma knowing you to be an admirer of that dish, was wishing this morning that you would come and dine with us; therefore if you love me, you will not fail coming." I promised her I would, and accordingly did; where I found the old lady as affable as ever; and we both (I mean miss and myself) blessed our stars for so easy a reconciliation.

Parthenissa set out for Monmouthshire, upon the fecond of May; and Rofs (when she was out of it) seemed to me as a detestable place; insomuch that I was determined not to be any considerable time from her. I went over to her in about eight days after she had left Rofs; and after some endearing expref-
sions on both sides, she gave me to understand, that if I was inclinable to live well whilst there, I must ingratiate myself into the good-wills of Mr. J— and Mrs. C—n; "for (said she) it is not in my power to give thee either victuals or drink, and they will hardly allow me any." I was really touched to the heart, to see her usage there, but what could I do? I was obliged, by her directions, to hold with the hare, and run with the hounds. I own, she (as well as myself) de-
ferved not any thing, but the worst of usages from him, by reason of the letter I had sent to her brother, concerning him, &c. How-
ever, I behaved very reserved, lest any thing
between

between miss and myself should have been discovered.

Mr. J—— was a lover of music, and sung very agreeably ; so that he and I, almost at first sight, became as great as two inkle-weavers : and before my return to Ross, he begged that I would subscribe to a cock-match, which was to be fought at the Ostrey, a public house in the neighbourhood. Parthenissa assured me of her being at home in two days after me ; so, for that time, I left Monmouthshire ; and when I came to Ross, I waited upon Mrs. P——, and told her I had seen miss in good health : “ Where ? ” (says she) “ In Abergavenny, madam,” (says I) for she knew nothing of my being at her son-in-law’s, and I called upon her in my way home. “ Pray God send her well home,” (says the old lady) and I added, “ With all my foul.” Miss came home, according to her promise, and begged that I would not fail being at the cock-match, which was upon the 21st of May.

From the time that I had received my money from the parish, miss (at her mother’s desire) became my cash-keeper ; so that I only spent what she thought proper : and when I was going to Monmouthshire, she gave me a guinea, telling me, it was enough in conscience, as long as I was to lye at her brother’s house ; and withal charged me, not to stay above a week, during which time she would make a visit to the miss C—es. After

vows

vows of constancy between us, as usual, I went to Monmouthshire ; where, by this time, Mr. R—d J—'s marriage was declared for the following reason. The letter that, by miss's orders, I had written to her brother in London, did not come to his hands till some considerable time after it was dated. When he had perused it, he fell into a violent passion, sometimes blessing, but very often cursing himself. He sent down a copy of the letter to his sister, laying his commands upon her, to enquire into the truth of it ; likewise to shew the copy to Mr. T— J—, of Penrose. But the close of his letter to Parthenissa was, " If it is true, the Lord look, and the Lord have mercy upon me." When I came to Llantillio, the place was in an uproar concerning this letter, and then it was high time for Mr. J—, and Mrs. C— to own their marriage. He taxed one, then another with writing to London. Then there was one taken up by a warrant, and another bound over to the assizes for it. Indeed there was an old justice in the next parish, who would stick at nothing to get a penny ; by whose means Mr. J— plagued some of the fiends that lived in the neighbourhood. But I never saw, in the whole course of my life, so much confusion in so small a place ; and, as I was the person that had written the letter, it is to be imagined, I wished myself with Parthenissa ; but since I was in the midst of the hurly-burly,

burly, I put on the most inoffensive looks that I was capable of, by which means I was not in the least suspected. But before my going there, miss had answered her brother's letter, wherein she assured him of her belief in every article mentioned in the letter copied, which he had sent down.

During my stay at Monmouthshire, I went with Mr. R— J— to his brother's at Penrose, and most of the talk there likewise was about the letter sent to London. The wife of Mr. Thomas J— (hitting the nail upon the head) said, "She was positive it could be nobody else, but Parthenissa, that old poisoned carrion Pen, and that old rascal John J—, who had contrived the letter sent to London." I joined with them so far, as to say, it was a scandalous piece of work (at the same time wishing myself a hundred miles off) and told Mr. J—, the only way to prove who writ it, would be to get the original letter, from Mr. P—. "By G—d (says Mr. Thomas J—) there is a great deal of reason in what Parry says, and I would have you try, brother, and get the original one from cousin M— P—." Then Mrs. J—, of Penrose, flew into a violent passion (indeed it is but few of your second-hand, sober gentlewomen, can contain or govern themselves at all times) saying, "I am sure sister P— has a hand in it too; and I am sorry that she and her daughter has no more sense, than to be guided by such an old

old nasty hussy as Pen is. All the reason, or the occasion of miss's, and, I suppose, her mother's malice to us, is, because we live in this farm, and they want to come here, because they imagine we are getting an estate; so, dear husband, let us go and live in our own house, &c. in Brecknockshire, and let my sister P— come here, and then she will be pleased, it is to be hoped." Mrs. P—, indeed, is no woman of any taste, but yet I do not think she could have lived in such a dirty sty, as Mrs. J— did. Mr. J— would have pacified his wife, by saying, " My dear, be easy about the matter; you know, I cannot help it." " I will not be easy (said she) I know my sister P—'s design, and I do not value her of a farthing."

If I had not known Mrs. J— before, I could have sworn, by her manner of expression, to have seen her sell flat fish and whittings, before the Three Tuns door, at Billingsgate.

The Monday following, being Whitsun-Monday, there was a dancing-match at the Onen, a public-house in the neighbourhood. Among the rest of the company invited, I was one; and, about five o'clock in the evening, I observed Pen to come in; and, as I was going to speak to her, I saw Parthenissa, to my no small surprise, stand by a style in the garden; " Good God (said I to her) what brought my fair one here?" " I

will

will tell you (said she) another time ; but go in, and I will immediately come after you ; and, although you are but a clumsy dancer, I insist upon it that you will not dance with any body, for I cannot bear to see you handle any woman besides myself ; and I will dance with no other person than Pen, lest I should make my dear boy uneasy, by dancing with any man." They had not danced an hour, before I heard the parish bells ring, and at Pen's whispering to her sisters, I asked her, what could occasion so sudden a joy, by the bells ringing, the company's laughing, &c. Pen assured me, it was upon miss's coming to mortify Mr. J—. For my part, I could come at no speech with Parthenissa, because she was crowded with a set of young women ; but about ten o'clock, the company left off dancing, and Pen came to me, desiring I would not lye at Mr. P—'s that night. " I have (added she) asked Mr. T— C—, to spare you a bed in his house, and you another time shall know the reason, why you are desired not to lye at the Great House." Mr. C— came to me, and begged I would take a bed with him. I thanked him for his compliment, and told him I would first go to Mr. P—'s (called the Great House) and that I would immediately return, and go home with him. The bells all this while rang, and the minute I entered Mr. P—'s house, he (by me) unexpectedly came in after me, and with him one Mr.

J—

J—L—, an attorney. During the course of my life, I never was more surprised, than to see him in the country, and was now sensible that the only reason miss had for desiring me to lye out of the house, was, because of his coming home. He went directly into the little parlour, where miss was, and as he passed by me, I made his worship a low bow, and with that left his house.

The next morning, Pen came to me, and gave miss's service to me, begging, for God's sake, that I would either go to Dingestow, the seat of R—J—, Esq; or Ross; for that Mr. R—J— did tease Mr. P— for the letter that had been sent to him, concerning him and his wife. I was as uneasy as miss was concerning the letter, but told Pen I would not go away; and that I neither cared whether Mr. J— had the letter of my writing, or not: and furthermore (made Pen believe) that I did not care, nay, even that I would own to Mr. P— and Mr. J—, that I was the person who had writ the letter. Pen went and informed miss with the result of our discourse. She, believing me to be in earnest, was affrighted, and called Mr. J—L— aside, begging, he would get the letter from her brother; "For (said she) if he gives Mr. J— the letter, he will certainly know who writ it;" "And you may be assured (added she) if my brother should give Mr. J— the letter, he will not stick at any thing to do the person

an injury who writ it : " And you know (continued she) the letter consequently must have been written by a friend, and designed as a piece of service to my brother ; therefore, it would be barbarous in him to give Mr. J— the letter." Mr. J— L— joined in opinion with her, and by persuasive arguments got the letter from Mr. P—, and gave it miss, who immediately communicated it to the flames.

I left that part of the country, and returned to Ross upon the 27th, then waited upon Mrs. P—, and informed her of all that, to my knowledge, happened in Monmouthshire ; but particularly, what Mrs. J— had suggested concerning miss and her. " Good God (says the old lady) I cannot imagine what should make Mrs. J— think, that I have an inclination to live in her place of abode : I always said, it was a lucky house and farm ; but, God knows, it is but a dirty drab of a hole : and as for the letter sent to Mr. P—, I will take my oath that I never new any thing of it." " Nothing can persuade her, madam (said I) but that you have had a hand in it." " Really, Mr. Parry (said she) I think Mrs. J— gives herself a great many unnecessary airs. Who is she, for God's sake ? Her mother was but a poor servant-wench, that came to live with my husband's father. He was often fudled, so made love to her : and God knows, that it was my maid Pen's mother, that (by telling

ling him she was careful, honest, &c.) persuaded him to marry her, and my husband never could endure Pen's mother for it, as long as he afterwards lived. I am, Mr. Parry, really surprised, that my sister J— should take upon her so much : I fancy she imagines people do not know her ; but in that she is mistaken ; her mother was as great an hypocrite as any breathing ; and I remember, that after my husband died, she said, in Mr. P—'s hearing, that when his father came to the estate, she took nothing from the house, but her wearing apparel ; and that it was not handsome in me, to take my own goods away, when I was going to keep house myself. But Mrs. J—'s mother did not consider, that I brought my husband an handsome fortune, besides household goods ; and that she brought nothing, except rags : and in short, Mr. Parry (added she) they are a parcel of false creatures, and I pray God send my poor girl from among them." So far I joined in fervent prayer with the old lady. "I will tell you one thing more (continued she) of the behaviour of Mrs. J—'s mother. She gave out, that I was a good-for-nothing creature, because I did not send my son-in-law a man in livery, when he was high sheriff of Monmouthshire ; and, God knows, I offered him a man, or a couple of silver salvers, and he accepted of the latter ; therefore, I think, that this hectoring woman has no reason for using
my

my child and me as she does ; but it may come home to her unexpectedly."

Parthenissa came home the 2d of June, and I was soon informed of all the proceedings in her brother's family ; particularly, that Mr. J— and his wife had been discharged from any trust reposed in them, by her brother : " Nay (said she) the very first night that my brother came home, Mr. J— and his wife being in the bed he used to lye in, he made them rise out of bed, because he was resolved to disturb them ; whereby they might see, they were to expect no favour from him."

Miss and I passed away our time as usual, having all our souls wished for, till she was to go to Monmouthshire, upon her brother's return to London, to take the management of his house, &c. at his request, upon herself.

In the mean time, I pressed her to fulfil the promise she had made me in December 1734, which was, to marry me the summer following. " Is there no waving of it for a year longer ?" (said she.) " My angel (says I) if you have any affection for me, you will not defer any longer ; for I am positive, we never can have a fairer opportunity than this time, by your being in Monmouthshire. If you will leave it to me, I will have it performed in the most secret manner imaginable." " But, my dear (said she) what shall we do for a licence and ring ?" " I replied,

leave

leave that to me, only give me one of your rings, to have one made by ; and the day that you set out for Monmouth, I will go to Gloucester, and have it made. I will order it so, that your mamma shall believe, I am gone to enquire for a place vacant of an organist, &c."

On Sunday the 8th of June, she went to Monmouthshire, and I to Gloucester ; but before our parting, she left with me (excepting a diamond and a mourning one) all her rings, eleven in number, and told me, " I must have the wedding ring made by the ring that we had married each other with in 1733." I had the ring made, and marked J. P. M. by Mr. Price, a goldsmith, in Gloucester ; and, when I returned to Ross, I sent Parthenissa a letter (see letter, Numb. XI) but receiving no answer, I writ her another (see letter, No. XII.) and had but just finished it, when Pen came from Monmouthshire, and gave me a scrap of paper from miss, in which was written as follows : " Mr. Parry, pray write Tweed Side, and Si Caro si, for the flute, and send it the first opportunity, without charge to me." And upon the back of the paper, she writ, hctaw yadnom tsop, i. e. watch Monday's post.

I went, upon the receipt of this, to Mr. W—L—, an attorney, who upon all occasions shewed himself my sincere friend, and told him, that I had something to impart to him,

him, which was a thing of great consequence to me, and hoped he would continue my friend, by assisting me in what I was going upon. He assured me, that if he could do me any service, without doing himself a prejudice, he would with pleasure serve me.

" But (added he) if I cannot serve you, I will do you no prejudice; so you may explain yourself to me, without any manner of danger."

" Why then (says I) you must know, that I am going to be married to Parthenissa" " I wondered (said he) what the devil you have been doing all this time, and several people are surprised at your staying here, ever since you gave up the keys of the organ: but, for my part, I have imagined for some time past, that thou had something more extraordinary in view. I will be plain with you (added he) you must excuse my not going with you, least you should mis-carry, by which means I shall be reflected upon hereafter. But this, I assure you, you shall be heartily welcome to what money I have by me, and to my horse, and hope you will excuse me from any thing else."

I thanked him, and accepted of his horse. I am to receive a letter from her (said I) the 23d of this month, which I will shew you; and, to confirm what I say, here is eleven of her rings (shewing them to him) and the wedding ring, which I have had made in Gloucester.

Upon

Upon Monday the 23d, I waited for the post-boy at the upper-end of the town, who gave me a letter (see letter, No. XIII.) which I answered by the same post (see letter, No. XIV.) I shewed Mr. L—— the letter that evening, who was fully convinced of what I had before asserted to him.

Upon the Wednesday following, the post-boy brought me another letter (see letter, No. XV.) and being now, as I thought, sure of a wife, took Mr. L——'s horse, and rid to Dingestow, the seat of R—— J——, Esq; which lies near Monmouth, and within three miles of L——, where Parthenissa was.

Having had the honour to wait upon that gentleman, in order to tune his lady's harpsichord, I flattered myself, that if I made my intentions known to him, he would do me any service, provided it would not be inconvenient to him. After supper, in presence of his lady, I told him, I had something to communicate to him, which was of as great a concern to me as my life ; and that if the thing should be known publicly, before it came to maturity, I should be inevitably ruined ; therefore hoped, as it lay in his power, he would befriend me. " You may (says that worthy gentleman) explain yourself freely, let the secret be what it will ; and, if it does not lie in my power to serve you, the thing shall go no farther from me, upon mine honour." " You must understand then, Sir, (said I) I am come over
from

from Ross, in order to be married to Parthenissa, and want not any thing but a blank licence, and a clergyman to marry us." "Tell me really (said he) have you got the lady's consent?" "I have, Sir, (said I) and we have agreed to be married in this parish." I then related to him the manner of her coming, as I have made mention of in my letter to her (No. XI.) Mr. J— asked me, upon what day I intended to be married. I told him, upon the Saturday following. "I will go over to a clergyman (said he) to-morrow, and he shall get a licence: in the mean time, you must go to Parthenissa, and settle every thing between yourselves." On the morrow, being Friday the 27th, he was so good as to go to the Rev. Mr. D—, vicar of B—, and in the mean time I went to Parthenissa, and found her in company with one Mrs. M— P—, a young gentlewoman that for some time was with her as a companion. After I had paid my compliments to them both, Mrs. P— left the room. Parthenissa sighed, and looked very pensive, before I had hardly time to speak to her. "My lovely angel (said I) what is the matter with you?" "Oh! lord (said she) I am afraid of somewhat:" "Of what, child (said I)" "Oh! good God (said she) of that last word thou hast mentioned," (meaning, her being apprehensive of being with child.) "Indeed, my angel (says I, embracing her) I cannot say I am sorry for it; but to prevent any

censure from the world, let us be married immediately. I have a clergyman and licence ready for that purpose. I shall persuade him to give us a certificate, dated as three months last past, by telling him, I have been before married to thee, but that the ceremony was performed by a woman ; that would have been good in law, but I have thy honour more at heart than thou canst imagine, and if thou shouldest bring this child to life, the birth of it cannot be accounted spurious ; therefore, my lovely girl, (continued I) do not pretend to wave our marriage, lest, as you are with child, or fearful of it, you bring disgrace upon yourself." "Good God (said she weeping) what shall I do ?" "Do, (said I) make me your husband ; you are thoroughly acquainted with my temper, and no stranger to my failings." "Well (said she sighing) since it must be so, I will comply ; but who is the clergyman, for I must know that ?" "Dear angel (said I) since he is a clergyman, it is no great matter who it is : but to answer you, his name is D—." "Oh, heavens, (said she, in a violent passion) he is the greatest r— upon earth, and will make the thing known to every body." "Thou soul of my soul (said I) do not be in a passion, for I have taken care he shall not divulge it ; besides, you shall be married in a masque, and as he does not know me, he is not to know our surnames until some time hence : but then,

my

my fair one, I am positive that Mr. J—— has such an influence over the parson, that he will most certainly injoin him to silence ; though to a great many people this may seem highly impracticable." " My dearest Jemmy (said she) thou dost know thyself to be master both of my soul and body, and that I cannot deny thee any thing. When must I come to Dingestow ?" I answered her, " To-morrow." " My dearest (said she) I would not be married upon a Saturday for the world, because it is a cross day, therefore do not insist upon it. Upon Sunday, you know, it will be impossible for me to come, because my brother's house, being the only one remarkable in the parish for a good one, several tenants, farmers, &c. will be here, as usual ; so that I must be at home. But on Monday I will certainly come ; and do not you fail of getting some body or other to ask me to come into Mr. J——'s house, and I will ride but gently by the door." After retiring, and possessing what lovers wish for, I took my leave of her, and begged that she would not disappoint me, in not coming ; and, as for the rest, it would be my care. She assured me, that she would most certainly come ; upon which I returned to Dingestow, and informed Mr. J—— with what had past, and what was to be done.

Upon the Monday morning Mr. J—— was pleased to walk some considerable time with me up and down the fields, by the

road side, where she was to come ; but, to my great disappointment, we could not see nor hear any thing of her. I immediately took horse, and went to her ; and as soon as we had the room to ourselves, I asked her what she meant, by making the fool of me, in the manner she had done ? " For God's sake, my dear (said she) do not put yourself in a passion, before you hear what I have to say for myself : the greatest part of our hounds were bit by a mad dog and bitch ; James and Coone, the huntsman, with Jacob George, the gardener, agreed last night (unknown to me) to take the pack this morning, and dip them in the salt water. They will be at home to night ; and I do assure you, if there had been any body at home to ride out with me, nothing should have prevented my coming ; so that, I hope, you will not be angry with me. I am satisfied you know very well, that I never did, nor could ride out alone." " When will you come then, my dearest ?" (said I). She replied, " To-morrow, if I am alive." " If you do not come, (said I) by G—d I will set out for London directly." " For heaven's sake, do not talk of leaving me (said she) unless you have a mind to kill me : but if I do not come to-morrow, I will give thee leave to spend this money." With that she opened an escutore, took out a leather purse, in which was a five moidore piece, two three pound twelves, moidores, &c. and laid it upon the table before

before me. I took the purse and put it into my pocket, protesting I would set out with it, if she neglected coming betimes. "If I do not come (said she) I tell thee once more, dispose of it as thou hast a mind, but do not talk of leaving me: but be not angry with thy fond one, if I should not come till the middle of the day." I promised her I would not. I returned back to Dingestow that night, and informed Mr. J—— and his lady of my success. That worthy gentleman next morning (after having deferred his journey upon the hills for four days, to take the diversion of shooting red and black game) set out towards the farthest part of the county; but before he went, left instructions in the family, to take Parthenissa down to the house of T——s A——y, adjoining to Dingestow church. I waited at the court before Mr. J——'s house, till it was past eleven o'clock, and seeing not any thing of her, I rid speedily to her brother's. As soon as I entered the house, Mrs. M——y P——ps asked me, if I had met with Parthenissa upon the road. I answered her in the negative; and asked her, where she was gone to. "She is gone towards Dingestow (said she) and is thereabouts by this time." It is to be imagined, I did not care for staying where I was, so asked Mrs. Philips to give me a glafs of Lisbon wine, telling her, I was in a great hurry, being obliged to be at Cardiff that evening, upon earnest business. She brought me the

wine, and would have persuaded me to have stayed and dine upon a roasted pig. I excused myself, and in haste rid back to Dингestow. The moment I alighted, I ran into the parlour, where I found Parthenissa sitting with Mr. J——'s lady. After two or three minutes talk, the lady withdrew. I clasped her in my arms, saying, " My lovely angel, I now have got every thing ready ; and I hope you will not scruple making me your lawful husband." She, instead of saying yes, as I reasonably might have expected, thunder-struck me in an instant, by telling me, she would not marry me at that time. " Good God (said I) what is it you mean, and what will this good family, and every one else think of us ?" " My dear (says she) do not be angry ; and if you have any love or regard for me, now is the time to shew it, by not insisting upon my marrying you at this time." I was so much confounded with surprise, that I was incapable of making her any answer. " Should I (continued she) marry you, my brother would shoot us both." Just as she had finished speaking, Mrs. J—— entered the room. " Madam (said I) Parthenissa is afraid to marry me, because she is certain that her brother would shoot me, &c. through the head." " I think that is reason enough (says miss.)" " Madam (says I) I do not think there is, neither am I apprehensive of any manner of danger : but let that be as it will, I am certain, that

upon

upon this occasion, or any thing like it, I could draw the trigger of a pistol, as well as your brother, if there should be a necessity for my behaving in that manner." " You know, Mr. Parry (says Mrs. J—) that Parthenissa and you are strangers both to Mr. J— and myself; and whether you are married or not, it will be no manner of odds to us; and as you asked Mr. J—, nay, begged of us, to be silent in your affair, I do assure you, that let what will happen, the secret shall not go from this family." Miss and myself returned the lady thanks, &c. I begged of miss to walk up stairs to the chamber where the instrument lay, and favour her with a lesson. We both played, and in a short space of time the lady was called out. Having the room to ourselves, I said, " My dear, what can be the meaning of this sudden change in your temper? you told me in your last letter, likewise on Friday last, that you was afraid of your being sometime gone with child; and now absolutely to refuse marrying me, after all that is past between us, I own, surprises me." " Pray, Mr. Parry (said she) do not ask me to marry you, for I will not at this time." " Will you ever? (said I :)" to that she answered nothing. " Well, madam (said I) since I find you are shuffling with me, I will set out of this country, whilst I have money in both pockets." " Pray (said she) give me back the five moidore piece, and the two

three pound twelves, &c. for they are my brother's, which he left me to pay the workmen with." "The devil a halfpenny shall you see of it (said I) for as I had it by your consent, I am resolved to keep it, for it will serve me very well in my London journey." Upon this, we were called down to dinner. The company were Mrs. J—, Mr. T— S—, a Warwickshire gentleman, Parthenissa, and myself. I sat at miss's right-hand; and, during dinner-time, she put her right foot upon my left, and often spake (but softly) in Welch, from callon, si enaed; which in English is, my heart, my soul. Those words gave me new life; insomuch, that I flattered myself that her resolutions would alter before we parted; and as Mrs. J—, and Mr. S— (who paid a long visit in the family, being very intimate) were no strangers to our business there, I was determined to put the question to her before them. After we had dined, I addressed myself to her, telling her, that I had acquainted Mrs. J—, and that gentleman (pointing at Mr. S—) with the intent of our meeting there. "I have the clergyman (added I) at hand; and I beg you will let me know your real intentions." "I will not marry you now (said she.)" "Not now (said I) why could you not have told me so last week, and not to have let me given my friends this trouble, and to keep the parson these three days waiting for us. If you will not marry me (added

I)

I) why did you order me to buy the ring?" "Not to be married with (said she.)" "No, (said I, surprised) what did you bid me buy it for then?" She again (confusedly) told me, not to be married. "Why do not you (says I hastily) tell Mrs. J—, &c. what was my intent in buying it?" To that question she did not (neither could she indeed) make me any answer, well knowing, that Mrs. J—, &c. saw very plain that the thing was undeniable. For my part, beginning to suspect her inconstancy, I was resolv-ed to trifle no longer with her. I turned towards her, and said, "Madam, you have denied me the pleasures of life." "What pleasures of life? (said she briskly.)" "You (said I) never would let me go any where; especially, to the music-meetings at Here-ford and Worcester, where I might have been in company, and have improved myself, by conversing with good maters. Then again, it is treason to speak to any one, es-pecially young women, lest by my so doing I should incur your displeasure: nay, I could name a thousand things more, but I am sure it would be needless." "Well, Mr. Parry, (said she) I will never marry any one with-out my mamma's consent." "Really miss, (said Mrs. J—) I think you are very much to be commended; and you are certainly in the right." By this time I was almost raving mad. "What do you mean (says I, to Parthenissa) by fooling me in this manner.

The world may well imagine, that I shall never have your mother's consent. Your base usage to me is insufferable. You, and only you, (continued I) have been my ruin, and that you know too, too well.. You have kept me these three years in Ross, wherein I have spent the flower of my youth to please you.. I might have had two very good places by applying for ; but you would not let me go from you, telling me from time to time you would most certainly marry me, and that I should have no occasion to make a livelihood of music, for that you had enough for both of us, without it. Then again, at Christmas last, when I had faithfully paid my debts, had money enough, good cloaths, linen, &c. to have carried me any where ; then, you would not let me go, when (it was worse than death to me) I willingly would have gone ; but, your swearing to me, you would marry me this summer, prevented my leaving the country. I stayed, believing fondly every thing you said was sacred ; but now I see my error ; and since you are bent upon fooling me, I here solemnly declare before the Almighty, and in the presence of Mrs. J—— and Mr. S——, that if you will not marry immediately, I will instantly give you all the letters you have writ to me, which I now have in my pocket, provided you promise to return me those I have written to you : and, I further declare, that for your sake I never will make love to another woman,

man, as long as you live." I brought all her letters with me, with a resolution to commit them to the flames, the minute we were married; for I thought them fit for no one's perusal, excepting ourselves. To my proposals of parting or marrying, she made me no manner of answer; and the tears gushed in her eyes. After having sat mute some time, she asked me, if I would give her the money. "Madam (said I) why will not you answer the Question I have proposed to you?" "Why then (said she) I never will marry without mamma's consent." "Madam (said I) you may do as you please, for I am resolved, not to give myself any farther trouble about you. As for the money, you shall never handle a doit of it; I will keep it towards the money I have profusely spent in your service, and in part of satisfaction for my lost time: and since (said I) you have used me so ungenteelly, by G—d, I will make your letters public." I left the room, and she burst into tears, and asked Mrs. J—, if she had heard my last words. Mrs. J— said, no. "Lord, madam, (says she) he says, he will expose my letters." "I do not think he will do that (says Mrs. J—,) though he is now in a passion; people in love say a great many things in heat, which they never intend performing." Parthenissa begged of her to persuade me to return her the money. Mrs. J— came out of the parlour, and desired me to give Parthenissa

(if I had any of her's) the money. "Madam (said I) I am really concerned to think that I cannot comply with your request; therefore hope you will not press me to give it her, because I am resolved to make sure of some pocket-money for my journey; and if you knew all, you would say I have acted too honest a part by her." Mrs. J— hearing that, importuned me no more, so went and informed Parthenissa with the result of our discourse. She returned to her brother's about five o'clock, without any ceremony from me, but a look full of indignation.

The disappointment gave me a great deal of uneasiness, and flung me into such passions, which made me behave with greater arrogance towards her, than became me; but yet, after she was gone (so strongly was I infatuated) my heart relented, and I would, had it been in my power, have given millions to have had her in my arms.

After I had composed myself, I begged the favour of Mrs. J— to inform me, how miss came there, for I had missed her upon the road. Mrs. J— said, that Mr. S— was walking with her about eleven o'clock in the fields, and going over a stile near the high road, they saw a young lady and a servant coming very slowly along. Mrs. J— immediately imagined her to be Parthenissa, but on her making her a bow, and seeming to incline to stop her horse, almost confirmed Mrs. J— in her opinion; so she desired

Mr.

Mr. S— to step and ask the servant who the young lady was; the servant answered, Mr. P—'s sister. By this time Mrs. J— came up with Parthenissa, asked her, where she was going, and why she did not call at Dingestow-house. Parthenissa told her, she was going to J— E—'s, at the Parloo. Mrs. J— told her, the roads were impassa-ble for a woman; so desired her to return back to her house, and said, that miss might send the servant forward to the tenants, and wait till she came there the foot-way, that being a fine walk. Parthenissa told (for once the truth) Mrs. J— she had no great business there, and immediately jumped off her mare, and walked with Mrs. J— to her house. Mrs. J— asked her, if she had met me. Miss said, no; for she had been some time at C—l G—, a tenant of her brother's.

Mrs. J— and Mr. S— talked some con-siderable time, thinking to bring Parthenissa into discourse with them, but to no purpose. Mr. S— called Mrs. J— out of the parlour, and said, he believed the young lady to be very bashful, and naturally reserved.

He advised Mrs. J— to talk with Parthe-nissa concerning me; for surely (says he) she is come to be married, and it will be necessary (I suppose) to send for Mr. D—, the clergyman. Mrs. J— told him, she would speak to Parthenissa; accordingly she did, and told her, that two or three days be-
fore

fore I had informed them of the affair between her and myself; and farther, that she imagined, it was with miss's approbation.

Mrs. J— still added, she thought herself obliged to assure Parthenissa of her endeavours to serve her in any thing that lay in her power, and likewise to keep the affair a secret. Parthenissa (in a great confusion) told Mrs. J—, that she did not intend to do any thing. Mrs. J— immediately begged her pardon, for mentioning any thing to her (particularly being an utter stranger) that was disagreeable; but that, by what she had been informed by me (some short time before) she imagined it to be quite contrary. And just as they ended the discourse I came in. What past afterwards, I have mentioned in the foregoing page.

I could not be at rest till I writ her a letter (see letter, Numb. XVI.) I went to Monmouth and sent it her from thence, by the wife of Dicky Creed, and returned that evening to Dingestow; but before my return, the old woman brought a letter (see letter, Numb. XVII.) for me, from miss; but directed it to Mrs. J—, in order to prevent our being suspected. The next day I went to Parthenissa, taking with me a letter that Mrs. J— was pleased to write to her at my request, wherein she thanked her for her visit (though designed for miss's ends) and that she would pay miss one very soon. Mrs. M— P— was with her in the parlour

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LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 183

when I came there, but Parthenissa soon found means to send her to another part of the house. This was upon the 4th of July, 1735. " My dear (said I) I am now come to take my last farewell of you ; in the first place, here are the pieces of gold, which you say belong to your brother." She took them from me, seemingly reluctant. " I now (added I) bid you an eternal adieu, and wish you all the happiness imaginable ; and if you ever do marry, it shall be always my earnest prayer to heaven, that you may meet with a loving husband, and one that will make you happy. Here is a letter from Mrs. J— to you (delivering it to her) and because you shall hereafter have no reason to say, that I have not behaved towards you like a man of honour or common sense would do to the woman who has captivated him, I have brought you all your letters. Here they are (offering them into her hand) do what you please with them." At those words she struck the bundle of letters out of my hands, and ran into my arms, and clung about my neck, crying ; then begging of me, not to stab her with my words. " If you must go from me (said she, fondly gazing in my eyes) kill me, then I shall not be miserable."

Here she fell a crying ; (methought that womens tears were like April showers, &c. but yet, being fondly credulous, and forgetting her protestations in March, 1734, and

in

in December, ditto, I was willing to mitigate her seeming sorrow.) "Madam (said I) what would you have me do? I have acted with as much honour as any man could do by you; I love you to distraction, and have been at a great expence to no purpose. You came to the place appointed, and refused me marriage. Many hundreds of your sex would, I am sure, be glad to be thought an honest wife, especially in such a case as ours; therefore I must tell you freely, your usage to me has been base, and undeserved. If I may take the freedom (continued I) pray what was the reason you would not be married, when time and place offered so opportunely?" "Will you not, my dearest dear (said she) hanging round my neck) be angry with me, if I tell you sincerely?" "By my soul, and all that is sacred, (said I) I will not." "I was really afraid (said she) that I was with child by you, when I went for Dingestow; but before I alighted at C— G—'s, I found the f—s coming upon me, and then I was sure of not being with child. That, and the thought of parson D—'s marrying us (for he would have blabbed around the country) made me resolve to put it off. And what I said concerning mamma's consent, was with no view, but to hinder thee from pressing me. But I was really afraid (continued she) that thou wouldest tell Mrs. J— and Mr. Sh—d all that passed between us: if thou hadst,

hadst, thou never wouldst have seen me living again; for I was resolved to poison myself." " My lovely angel! (said I, clasping and embracing her) I would sooner die than be false to thee: but tell me sincerely what I am to depend upon." " Well, my dearest (said she) I will actually marry thee; therefore send for a licence any where, for I will not be married without one; and if a blank one can be had, it will be so much the snugger. Get any parson, but D—s, and I will be thine in a legal manner, and make thee as happy as I possibly can." We were interrupted, so retired to her chamber, where we embraced, &c. each other, to my thinking, with more tenderness than ever. Whilst I was with her, she writ a letter to Mrs. J—, (see No. 18.) I took my leave of Parthenissa, promising to return to her next day; so went to Dingestow. I was as good as my word, and staid with her three or four days. During that time, it is to be imagined, we contrived all methods to be by ourselves; and I proposed going either to Llandaff, Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester, or Bristol, to buy a licence. " My dear boy (said she) you shall not go to either of those places, because you are known there." " Why then, my dear (said I) let me go to London, and I shall be sure of one at Doctors Commons." " No (said she, reclining her head upon my shoulder) thou shalt not go there for the world; then I never should see thee again indeed,

indeed, but must always be in solitude and misery. But hah ! (said she overjoyed) I have a thought come into my head, that will do ; and my boy will allow a woman's projection to be the quickest in affairs of this nature." "Out with it, my angel (said I, in an ecstasy) this very moment!" Mr. P—the merchant (says she) is a well-wisher and friend of yours ; write to him, and beg of him to get a blank licence, if possible ; but if not, any other from the Commons. You can, my dearest, return him the money he lays out, by Tudor the waggoner." I kissed her for the lucky thought, and assured her I would not fail writing to London, the minute I returned to Ross. "I intend, my dear (said I) to have a paragraph written by a friend, and inserted in the Gloucester Journal, that I intend to teach in Abergavenny, Monmouth, &c. by which means your mamma will not mistrust my being with you, when I am out of Ross." "That will do purely (said she) and as thou lovest me, do not neglect it."

I returned to Ross upon the 9th, and had the paragraph, dated the 14th of July, 1735, inserted in the journal, which had my desired effect ; for when Mrs. P—— thought I was at Monmouth, or Abergavenny, I most certainly was in her daughter's arms, at her son-in-law's house. And whenever I returned to Ross, Mrs. P—— commended me for

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 187
for stirring (as she called it) a little about
to get money.

But during this time, it was whispered
about several parishes, that there had been
some remarkable wedding at Dingestow.
Some said, it was between Parthenissa and
Mr. J—— J——, brother to R—— J——,
Esq; of Dingestow; others said, it was a
Roman Catholic couple; and I was informed,
that one E—— R——, daughter to a
tenant of Mrs. P——, imagined it to be
miss and myself. She came to Dingestow,
and asked Mr. J——'s house-keeper, whe-
ther Parthenissa had been there upon such a
time, or not. The house-keeper answered
in the affirmative. "Why then (said she)
poor Parthenissa is married to Mr. Parry,
and madam P—— will break her heart." The
house-keeper, I was informed, assured her,
there was no such thing as a wedding there.
However, B—— R—— railed against me bit-
terly; and as I never had any misunder-
standing with the girl, but, on the contrary, have
lent her money, when her father has refused
it her, I was nettled at her behaviour, and
made myself so ridiculous as to send her a re-
primanding letter, which the girl answered;
protesting her innocence of what I foolishly
had laid to her charge.

J——h C——ke, of the Hill, near Ross, who
was something related to Mrs. P——, came
and informed her of a report that he had
heard, which was current, and it was assert-
ed

ed for truth, that her daughter was either married, or to be married, to Mr. John J—, or me; "But (says he) take care of Mr. Parry." "Sir, (says Mrs. P—) I thank you, I will take care of my daughter; and if I do not, my daughter is able enough to take care of herself." There is the thanks he had. Parthenissa came to Ross in five or six days after I had left Monmouthshire. Neither of us were strangers to what Mr. C—ke had hinted to Mrs. P—; Pen informed miss of it, and miss of course told me; and both of us heartily wished him at the devil for his trouble. It was at this time, that, by her directions, I writ to a worthy gentleman in London, begging the favour of him to get some acquaintance of his, to go to Doctors Commons, and buy a licence, &c. The 28th of July, 1735, being fair-day at Ross, several of Mrs. P—'s tenants, and their neighbours, came to see her and miss. When they had an opportunity of speaking to Mrs. P—, unobserved by miss, (for Monmouthshire is one of the most gos-sipping counties in the kingdom) they told her, the country news, viz. that miss was married to Mr. John J—. "Well, well, (says Mrs. P—) I am obliged to you for your intelligence, but to me it is no news at all." I came in whilst they were at dinner, and Mrs. P— made me sit down by her, in particular, that day. "Mr. Parry (said she) have you heard the mighty news?" "What mighty

mighty news, madam? (said I.)" "Why, (says she) my daughter is married." "Are you serious, madam? (said I, half dead.)" "I am told so (says she) and that she was married at Dingestow." (All this while, miss and myself did not dare to look each other in the face.) "Really, madam (said I) miss did not behave genteelly, in not letting her acquaintance into the secret." (Then turning to miss.) "Indeed miss, if I had known any thing of the matter, the bells should have rung here incessantly for three days together." "Some people say (said Mrs. P—) that my daughter is going to be married to Mr. Doomsday; and others mention Mr. J— J—. I wonder who will be the next husband they will pitch upon for my daughter." "I think, madam, (said I) the devil's in the people; they invent lies, merrily for the sake of telling them." "Mr. Parry (said she) I am really of your way of thinking; but there is one comfort, say what they will, I shall not mind them; neither do I believe any one else will." I assured her, with all my soul, that it was my opinion, she was very much in the right of it.

I came to Parthenissa the next day, when we both expressed ourselves very well pleased at Mrs. P—'s taking no manner of notice of the country's buzzing. "Have you (said she) sent to London for a licence?" I replied, "Yes, my jewel, and do expect an answer by the next post." "If you should make a

bad

bad husband, after all your vows of love (said she) I shall be wretched." "I have, my dearest girl (said I) challenged my thoughts, and examined myself thoroughly, knowing matrimony to be too solemn a thing to jest with; and if I thought that I could not make both you and myself happy, by proving the best of husbands, I never would press you to it. You are no stranger to my vices, nor (if I have any) my virtues. You very well know I have hid nothing from you, but, on the contrary, have fully exposed my ill qualities to you. Therefore, my lovely angel, it is in your power to make me the most reformed of men." "I do not (said she) in the least dispute your making a good husband; if I ever had thought you would not, you never should have done what you have done. But, my dearest Jemmy must give me the liberty of telling him something concerning my pappa and mamma. He was a person that was respected by most people; but when he was in liquor, he would quarrel with any one, and would often beat mamma. Upon one time, he wanted her to break her settlement; telling her, that there would be enough left for me, when my aunt H— died; but he could not prevail upon her to do it, upon which he beat her unmercifully, and gave her a violent blow upon her breast, which occasions her smoaking so much tobacco; insomuch, that if she left it off, she would be no long liver." "My dear angel (said

(said I) you seem, by telling me this, that you are apprehensive of my using you in that vile manner which your pappa did your mamma." "No indeed (said she) not in the least; far be it from me, to harbour any such thoughts of thee. And it was but the other day, that mamma told me the reason of her smoaking." "But to what intent (said I) my dear, do you tell me this?" "No intent at all (said she) excepting that, that I would have thee believe I can keep nothing a secret from thee. And if thou wilt love me dearly, dearly, I will tell thee how mamma came to live in Ross; but if you should be so silly as to speak a word of it in Pen's hearing, you will knock all on the head." (I wore I would obey her in every thing). "My dearest must know then (said she) that after my papa died, my mamma had a liking to one J—, a school-master, who used, when I was little, to teach me to read. But before that, mamma was not half a yard (or at least, not much more) round the waist; and was counted, in her younger years, a great beauty. She lived with her aunt in Monmouthshire, and had the character of a very charitable young gentlewoman, round the country. Mr. C—ke, of the Hill, courted her formerly, but she would not have him, because his elder brother was living. Soon afterwards, Mr. C—ke's brother died, then he would not have my mamma. Soon after, my pappa's wife died, and he wanting mo-ney,

ney, borrowed seven hundred pounds of mamma, and not being conveniently able to pay her, he courted her, and offered to settle a larger jointure upon her, than her fortune could command. She consented to be married to him; by which marriage I was born, I hope, to make thee and myself happy. My pappa proved a bad husband, as I have told you before. He died before I was nine years old; and in about a year afterwards Mr. J—, who I told you taught me to read, courted mamma; and I believe mamma loved him, because he was thought to be a good christian; yet, notwithstanding his religion, love overcame him. I have often seen him lean his head upon her shoulder (here she shewed me) just so; and very often he would sit upon mamma's lap, and sometimes she would upon his. Some of the family seeing them sit so by chance, acquainted my brother of it, who immediately forbid Mr. J—ns the house; threatening to shoot him, if he ever came near it. He afterwards came to mamma, and upbraided her for beneathing herself, and for forgetting my pappa's memory so soon; upon which they quarrelled, and mamma took all her own goods from his house; and so we came to live here in Ross. My brother would have kept me with him, if he could have done it; but mamma would not leave me behind her, you may be sure. Thus, my dear, dear Mr. Parry (continued she) have I given you an account

account how heaven has flung me in your way." " My lovely angel! (said I) clasping her, this frankness of yours makes me (if possible) love you more and more, &c."

Upon the 27th of July, I received an answer to that letter which I had sent to London, (see No. 19.) and the minute I had read it, I shewed it her; who was under as great a concern at the perusal of it, as I was. " Pray, dearest (said she) run to Mr. L— with it, and take his advice in the affair." I went and shewed him the letter, and he advised me to write to my friend in London, desiring him to take any clergyman with him to Doctors Commons, by which means he could not fail of having a licence. I went back to Parthenissa, and acquainted her with the result of what had passed between Mr. L— and me, and that post I writ again to London, according to his instructions; and moreover, told my friend who was to be my spouse. We were both of us very impatient for the answer to my London letter, and upon the second of August, I received it; (see No. 20.) my being disappointed, in not having the licence, grieved me. I communicated it to her. She sighing, said, " Good God, my dear boy, what shall we do?" " My dear girl (said I) you see what my dear friend Will. L— says in his letter; in my opinion, what he has intimated to me, carries a heavy weight. I may, my dear angel, and will, if you give me leave,

whip away to London, and there I shall be sure of a licence ; and since you have no inclination to let me go to Llandaff, &c. &c. &c. for one, I really think it the most secret and safest method to set out this night to London. "No, no, (said she) thou shouldest sooner take thy cutteau, and kill me, than go to London." "Why so, my heart's darling ? (said I.)" You know me (said she) to be too jealous of you here in the country, and what must I be, if you go to London ? therefore you shall not go there, above all places in the world, unless you have a mind to bereave me of life ; but I am sure you have more love for me, than to shorten my days." "I am ravished (said I) to think my fair one has so good an opinion of me : but what shall we do ? I am resolved to be thy lawful husband in a very short time." "My dear dearest (said she, embracing me) I will marry thee before the winter comes in, let what will come of it."

Towards the seventh of August, she was to return to Monmouthshire ; and (unknown to me) out of a compliment, asked her mother to come there for a month, &c. Her mother accepted of the invitation ; I believe, partly to save the expence of house-keeping. Miss acquainted me with it, and I could not keep my temper, but swore, that her mother's being in Monmouthshire would ruin our amour ; she assured me to the contrary, and protested, that she would not stay above

a fort-

a fortnight there. " My dear (said she) if mamma should stay there any time, I can come as often as I please to you, here in Ross ; and we can easily be married, because of her being so far distant from us." " My dear (said I) you have bound me so firmly yours, that your will shall be my law ; but if any thing happens contrary to our expectations, by which means our hopes should be frustated, I hope you will not attribute any miscarriage to me." " My dear (said she) be easy, I will not do any thing that shall be disagreeable to you ; and if my dearest will prove constant, and keep no lewd women company, I will make the best of wives to you ; but if you should prove an ill husband (but I am satisfied, that one that loves me as you do cannot) you would bring me with sorrow to the grave."

The day before she went to Monmouthshire, we agreed to write to each other in the manner following ; when I writ to her, it was to be with lemon juice, upon music-paper ; for after that I had pricked the music, I writ my thoughts upon the blank part, with juice, which seemed invisible, until she scorched it, then the words would appear very visible. When I had so done, I would take it to the maid Pen, who carefully would inclose it in her letter to miss ; imagining what I sent, to be written for the flute ; so that my letters were not suspected. Her way of writing to me, was as follows. She writ to Pen,

and no more than what would fill the fourth part of half (sometimes) a sheet ; then, on the blank side, she would desire Pen to ask me for a tune for the flute, and would put eight or nine consonants together, for the name of the tune. Pen could hardly read writing, and when (as I always expected a letter) I came to the house, she would say, " Mr. Parry, miss has sent me a letter, and you must write her out a tune, but I cannot think of the tune ;" with that she would pull out the letter, and I (making her believe I could not remember the name of it) would tear off the other part of the letter, and take it with me, then scorch it, &c.

August the 7th, they set out for Monmouthshire. In the morning, miss and I swore constancy to each other ; she, at the same time, promising, that it should not be long before we met again. About an hour before they set out, she gave me her casket of rings to keep, and bid me go before them, to the end of the town, where they were to get on horseback. I took the servants, that came to fetch them, to the Ship (which was next door to the house that I had been at, when she was jealous of the jersey-spinner, in December, 1734,) and gave them a tankard or two of cyder, and, in the interim, Mrs. P—— and miss came, with a train of women with them, to see them safe on horseback.

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The moment miss saw me at the Ship door, she blushed as red as vermillion. Her mother walked foremost, and I walked close to miss. She hemmed, as if something had been in her throat, (but I knew it to be a sign of discontent) and eagerly looked towards the Anchor ale-house, and afterwards turned her face to me, and, to my no small surprise, said, "G—d d—n that house." "God bless me (said I softly) what is the matter?" "You know what is the matter, (said she) and if you love me, swear to me you will not go there." "G—d d—m me if I do (said I.)" "Then (said she) take your leave of mamma immediately, and let me instantly see you ran up the prospect-hill, and not go into town the way we came here, which is the causeway, and you shall hear from me this week." I took leave of them, and ran up the hill (which is almost perpendicular) she viewing me all the way from the road. I was so expeditious, that when I climbed over the prospect-wall, I was forced to lie flat, to draw breath; and that hour, I went and informed Mr. L——s with the manner of our parting, her cursing, &c. He laughed heartily, and said, "James, this girl most certainly loves you." I received a letter from her, by the hands of Pen, in the manner I have beforementioned, (see No. 21.) I answered it, (see No. 22.) and the day following, I writ her another in the same manner, (see No. 23.) She answered it

the same week, and in it, sent a copy of verses out of the Spectators, which (to keep her mother in ignorance) I was to set a tune to, (see No. 24.) Upon the 16th of August, I went down to Newport in Monmouthshire; but before I set out, I writ her a letter, (see No. 25.) and at my return, received one from her, (see No. 26.) I answered it, (see No. 27.) I received another from her, (see No. 28.) I answered her letter, (see No. 29.) and not hearing from her, as I expected, I sent her another letter, (see No. 30.) August the 25th, I received one from her, (see No. 31.) The 28th day, I went to Newport in Monmouthshire; but whilst I was at Monmouth, I writ a letter to J—— G——, gardener to Mr. P——, (see No. 32.) Parthenissa writ me word, in juice, that I must not be out of Ross; for that she would be with me in a day or two. She afterwards gave the paper to the gardener, directing him what part to write on; wherein he assured me (which I very well knew) he had no violin to dispose of, and directed his letter to the King's-head in Monmouth. Upon the 30th, I returned to Ross, and she came after me, upon the first of September. Our joy in meeting was unspeakable, and I was incapable of going out of her sight, excepting bed-time, &c. for seven days successively. During her stay in Ross, we were often obstructed in our pleasures, by Mrs. Eliz. Dew, an intimate acquaintance of Parthenissa's.

thenissa's. This young woman would often peep through the window before she spake, to see if miss was, or was not in the parlour ; and upon one particular time, she had like to have seen us (and it is in my opinion she did) in the midst of our embraces, for which I have ofter cursed her, and miss has wished her blind, or in the bottom of the river Wye.

Monmouth races, that year, were to begin upon the 12th of September. Two or three days before they began, I asked Parthenissa if she would let me go there. " My dear, (said she) do not ask me ; for, by my consent, you shall not go." " My angel (said I) you went there last year, and promised me that (provided I stayed at home then) I should go this year." " My dearest (said she) if you will stay no longer than the horse-race time, you shall go." Upon Tuesday the 12th I came booted, &c. in order to take my leave of her. After we had dined, I went into the parlour with her ; there, for the space of fifteen minutes, swearing constancy, &c. I saluted her, and was going out of the room. She ran at me as quick as thought, and took me round the neck, hugged me to her breast, then gushing into a flood of tears, looking languidly at me, saying, " Dear, dear Mr. Parry, will you leave me ?" I was never so surprised in my life. " In the name of heaven (said I) what has troubled my angel ?" " Nothing" (said she) at which she sunk in my arms, " Tell me,

I 4 thou

thou sacred treasure of my soul (said I) what has caused this sudden change in thee; sure, it must be something uncommon, that could move you thus; and as I never hid any thing from my fair one, I insist upon your telling me the unlucky occasion of your tears, which affect me most surprisingly." " You know (said she faintly) I never could bear the thoughts of your going to any public place, therefore I durst not ask you to stay with me; but I really am afraid, you have appointed some mistress or other to give you the meeting there; and had I a thousand pounds by me, I would give it you to stay with me." " My dearest girl (said I) you surmise very strange notions of me. As I hope for mercy, I have no thought of any woman, besides yourself; neither do I ever intend having an intrigue with any other. You are often jealous of me, without a just suspicion; and I tell you now, as I have often done before, that I have, and will be as constant to you, as the flowing tides are to the moon. But since I find you averse to my going to Monmouth, let the horse-race be d—d; for I prefer thy dear dear conversation above all worldly pleasures; therefore by choice I will stay with thee." At that, she ran to the parlour door, and buttoned it; then, taking hold of my hand, she looked wishfully at me, and said, " Will my dearest boy stay with me?" " I will stay with thee (said I) my fond one." " Good God! (said she, clasping

ing me in her arms, and bedewing my cheeks with her tears) how dear thou art to me! Come and sit upon my lap, and talk fondly to me." I sat across her knees, and with an handkerchief, wiped the tears from her eyes. The servant Pen suddenly came into the room, but not without a little difficulty, because miss had not buttoned the door as it should have been : I sprang from miss's lap into the middle of the room, and the maid seeing her eyes red with tears, &c. asked, " What, in the name of God, was the matter?" " Nothing (says I confused) but that I have got some books of miss's, and she wants me to deliver them, before she gives me those that are mine in her custody." " I do not know (says Pen) what is between you ; neither do I care." With that she left the room, and went down into the town. " My dear (said I to miss) if your crying, &c. and Pen's seeing both of us thunderstruck, (when she came into the room) does not spoil our intrigue, nay, inevitably ruin us, I will be hanged." " For God's sake (said she) do not let my Jemmy be angry with me, and whatever happens from Pen, or any one else, shall be of no signification to me." Pen returned in about an hour, and seeing me with miss at the door, told me, she thought that I was upon the road to Monmouth. " I would have been there by this time (said I) but that the farrier has pricked my horse in his shoeing him." " I

think (said miss) you are in the wrong to take a horse to Monmouth, it is but six little miles to it ; and as you have sent your cloaths, I would advise you to walk there." Both of us thinking my going to Monmouth highly necessary, because Pen should have no room to mistrust us ; I went there upon the Wednesday morning.

Miss, being my cash-keeper from the time I was paid my salary, gave me a guinea to bear my expences, and wanting money, upon the following Saturday, I writ her a letter, and sent it by the trusty post-boy (see No. 33.) he delivered it into her hand, and that same hour brought me an answer, (see No. 34.) I returned to Ross upon the following day ; and spent most of my time with her, until her return to Monmouthshire, which was upon the 29th of September. During the time of her being at Ross, I often proposed going for a licence, &c. but she would no way consent to it; assuring me, that her brother was expected down daily from London ; and that his stay in the country would not be above three or four days ; but the moment he returned, she protested she would make me her lawful husband. " But, (said she) I have a thing to tell my ancient Briton, that will make him jealous. Thou dost know that I have often wished it in my power to make thee so, but to no purpose. However, (continued she) I will really tell thee what is intended in Monmouthshire, to thy destruction

tion and mine." "For the Almighty's sake (said I) let me know it, in order to prevent it, if possible." "I believe (said she) nay, I am positive, that my aunt J—— intends, if she can, to have me married to her son D——k; he has been kept from going to Hereford on purpose, and comes every day to my brother's house; and whenever he found me sitting alone, he would draw a chair, and sit close by me; then he would lay his hand upon my neck, and look wishfully at me, and fetch a deep sigh; (the very way that you did use, when you were about eighteen.) But one day, in particular, he took me round the neck with one hand, and by main force thrust the other hand down my breast; and as he kissed me, the impudent puppy put his tongue in my mouth. The moment (continued she) I got loose from him, I did spit in his face; called him an impudent rascal, and asked him what he meant by using me in that manner? Dick J—— took me up short, and repeated the word rascal: "Then (said he) do you know what a rascal is, miss? If you do not, by G——d I will shew you." Whilst Parthenissa related this to me, she observed my colour go and come. "Do not be uneasy (said she) my dearest, about it." "I cannot, my dear (said I) help saying, I am uneasy; and had I been near, when he took that freedom with you, By G——d I would have dashed his brains out." "Do not be angry with me (said she)

telling thee this ; for you know I can keep nothing hid from thee. I sincerely promise thee, that he shall never kiss me again ; no, nor no one else, unless it is a relation, &c. at coming to, or going from our house." " I shall think myself very happy (said I) if my angel will make her words good." " Why then (said she) to convince thee of my sincerity, I wish the d—l may be master of my soul, and may it never see eternity, if ever D— J— shall touch my lips, or any one else, besides thyself ; unless it is a relation, &c. as I have told thee before. And now (added she) I do insist upon your swearing the same oath, to be true and constant to me, as long as I am to you." I swore the same oath, with some addition, to be constant, &c. " My dear (said I) your being at your brother's will be the greatest of ill consequences to me : there I have no friend besides yourself ; and as there is some private talk of us already, every one will, I am afraid, be putting wrong notions in your head against me, (particularly your mamma, your aunt, that devil, and Pen, who I am sure saw me in your lap) and, by their vile insinuations, may turn thy love into hatred." " My dear (said she) be under no manner of concern about that ; and if you have any regard for me, you will not question what I am going to say." Before she proceeded, she sat in my lap, and laid her arm round my neck. " Believe me, my dearest boy, that if any one (especially

cially those you mention) speak disrespectfully of you, and should strive to make me do an impossibility, that is, to hate you, I will spurn at them, and love my dearest Jemmy more and more: therefore (continued she) give yourself no manner of uneasiness, and be entirely passive; for as soon as my brother returns to London (for, by his letters, he will be down in a fortnight, and his stay will not be above three days) let the consequence be what it will, I will make thee my lawful husband, in the sight of the world; we are man and wife in the sight of heaven; mamma cannot live forever; therefore, my dearest, rest satisfied; I am resolved to contribute all that shall lie in my power to make you an happy man."

At this time, captain Lemon's troop of dragoons, belonging to Lord Mark Kerr's regiment, was quartered in Ross. One Thompson, a riding-master, and serjeant of the troop, discovered something more than common betwixt miss and me. He was my friend, and never disclosed what he had observed between us.

The 27th of September was the fixed day for her return into Monmouthshire. Upon the 23d, H—t R—h—ll W—f—l—g, junior, Esq; came and invited her to a private ball, which was to be at R—H—, (an ancient seat of that family's, lying N. E. about a mile from Ross) the next day. Miss thanked him for the favour conferred upon her,

her, and promised to come with the Miss C—kes. She informed me of her unexpected visit from Mr. W—f—l—g, and that the ladies would take her up in their coach that evening, to go to R— H—. " My dear (said I) I wish you good diversion ; and am sure you cannot fail of good company at Mr. W—f—g's. Whilst you are there, I will go down to Newport, and teach Miss G—n ; and as it is but two and twenty miles there, I can easily meet you, at your brother's, upon Saturday night, where I will stay a day or two with you." She was averse to my going, until her return from R— H—, but I over-persuaded her, by telling her, (as the servants were coming with horses to fetch her) that my coming from the remotest part of the county, would look as if I came there merely by chance, by which means there could be no manner of foundation for any suspicion of our being frequently together in Ross. She joined in opinion with me, and readily consented to my going to Newport : and that evening, whilst I took a walk in the town, Mr. C—'s coach came and took her to R— H—, before I had the pleasure of taking leave of her. Next morning, I set out for Newport ; and upon Saturday the 27th, I came to her brother's, in expectation of seeing her there, according to our appointment. Mrs. P— expressed herself glad to see me ; and after some little chat, I asked her where miss was. " My daughter

daughter (said she) will not be at home until to-morrow night: I have sent Jacob this morning, with horses, to fetch her." I stayed there that night, and next morning, though importuned by the old lady to stay that day, I set out towards Ross; hoping to meet miss in Monmouth, or at least upon the road. I waited impatiently at Monmouth until sun-set, in expectation of seeing her, but to no purpose; so went to Ross that night. I went to Mrs. P——'s house, and asked the maid where miss was. She told me, miss had been gone to L——o, ever since eight o'clock in the morning; and that she went a different road to that of Monmouth. I came there next morning, and went into the parlour, to look for a letter, which I imagined miss might have left for me in the inside of the spinnet, and, as I expected, found one (see No. 35.) I communicated it to Mr. L——, and told him, that at her request, two or three days before I went to Newport, I returned her all her rings, likewise her gold medal. "My opinion (says he) is, that this girl will most certainly jilt you one time or other, and by G——d I am afraid you will find my words prove too true." But I was too much infatuated, at that time, to believe any such thing, or to harbour an ill thought of her.

From the time I had left playing the organ, several people wondered at my stay in Ross. Every one knew I got no money in the

town ; but, on the contrary, was always upon the spending hand ; insomuch, that they were surprised how my purse held out ; but to that they were as ignorant as they were to my most private affairs ; for I got money considerably by teaching in the country. Some of the inhabitants imagined that I was actually married to Parthenissa. Others were of opinion, that we were to be married ; but none of them declared their sentiments freely, lest they should disoblige Mrs. P—, and Mr. C—'s family.

Ross, without Parthenissa, seemed to me as a desolate place, and I never was easy in my temper, unless I was near her. I went down to Newport upon the 4th, and came to her brother's upon the 7th of October. I observed Mrs. P— look cool upon me, and my fears justly told me, that my happiness, in enjoying Parthenissa's company, &c. was near its period ; and that night, whilst we were at supper, there was not twenty words said. Mrs. P— left the parlour to miss and myself. I asked miss, what was the matter with her mamma ? "I do not know (said she) neither can I imagine what is come to her, unless she is mistrustful of us." "If so (said I) I will refrain coming here ; and provided I can hear from you now and then, I shall rest satisfied ; especially if you will come to me once a month, &c. in Ross. If you will not approve of that method, I will get out of the way for two or three months."

months." "For God's sake (said she) do not drive me mad, by talking of going to any strange place, for mamma will not be out of temper long; therefore let us talk of something else. Who do you think was (continued she) at Mr. W——g's?" "My dear (said I) how should I know?" "There was (said she) Mr. J—y C—ke, and Mr. Doomsday. They both told me they would be here next Friday, to celebrate my birth-day." "Nay then (said I) if Mr. Doomsday will be here, I will stay here." Hearing Mrs. P— come down stairs, miss bid me be silent, and assured me, I should know her mind next morning, written upon a piece of paper. I was very impatient till I got her by herself, and next morning she slipped a paper into my hand, wherein she begged I would go to Ross that day, and not appear upon her birth-day, lest her mamma should take fresh grounds for jealousy; for that Pen, and Jenny Birch the milliner, were to come there from Ross: "And (added she) if you stay here, we shall be discovered; for our love cannot be hid." I answered her, upon the same paper, that I would punctually obey her commands, but that I thought myself more entitled to be there, in order to celebrate her birth-day, than Mr. Doomsday, or any one else; and farther added, that Jenny Birch's coming there, and especially Pen's, would not be of any advantage to either of us,

quite

quite the reverse : " And (added I) if our affair is ruined, lay not the blame upon me." I writ a great deal more upon that paper, than I can now well remember ; but in particular, that she must meet me in a private part of the house, for that I was resolved to enjoy her before I went to Ross. (I must give her her due, by saying, she was always as willing as myself, to partake of the pleasure of enjoyment.) About an hour before she had fixed the place for private meeting, she desired her mother to give me a hunted hare, and I, in lieu of it (after my return to Ross) sent her some oysters.

Wednesday the 8th of October, 1735 (a day that I have just reason to remember) was the last day of my being blessed in her arms. She appointed me to meet her at the bottom of the great stair-case. Her brother's steward, one C— M—, was then under an arrest, or at least (to my knowledge) the sheriff's officer was in the house, waiting to have the matter compromised. Mr. T— W—, of L—, was sent for, and performed the part of an arbitrator, and whilst he was up stairs with the steward, miss and I met at the place appointed. I put the doors of the hall close ; and the reader is to guess what past between us. But Mrs. P— coming from a little parlour into the hall, surprised us. The door which was next to the stair-case, was not shut quite close, by which means I saw her coming

ing towards us. I pushed miss up the great stairs, and she was at the top in an instant. I slipped down the garden stairs with my trowzers at my heels. * I could not imagine what to do, or how to behave, knowing (or at least believing) that Mrs. P— saw me in an indecent posture with her daughter. She stood at the bottom of the steps, and (wanting a better come-off) pulled some money out of my pocket, under pretence of telling it over. I afterwards turned about, saw her look pale, confused, and out of temper. So, thinks I, I have done my jobb here, and I would that the devil had had the trowzers before I had seen them: for I was certain, that my trowzers were the strongest evidence against us. Just before I went to get on horseback, I asked Mrs. P—, if she had any commands to Ross. "Mr. Parry (said she) I thank you, I have only my service to my acquaintance." I then flattered myself, that my fears were needless, and that she had not seen miss and me too familiar. Miss ran after me into the court, begging of me, to give her service to Mrs. Morse, &c. on purpose to have me in view as much as in her power, and bid me adieu; and unhappily it was the last verbal one that past between us. I returned to Ross that night, and the next

* Trouzers are commonly wore by those that ride post down into the north, and are very warm; at the same time, they keep the coat, breeches, &c. very clean, by being wore over them.

morning

morning I met Mr. Doomsday and Mr. J—C—ke in the street, on horseback. They told me, that they were going to Monmouthshire, to keep Parthenissa's birth day; and asked me, if I would come with them. I thanked them, and wished them good diversion, but that I could not go again so soon, because I had but just come from thence. Mrs. B—h and Pen went likewise the same day. Mr. Doomsday and Mr. C—ke returned in two days; the other two about seven. At Mrs. B—h's return, I expected to have heard from misf, by J—b G—ge, who came with her, but was disappointed, which made me uneasy.

Upon the 21st, Mr. L—s came to my lodgings, and after some talk, he asked me, if I had drank any thing that morning. I told him I had not. "Are you sure (says he again) you have not?" "Yes, very sure (said I.) But pray why do you ask me?" At that he took two letters out of his pocket. "My spouse (said he) gave me these, and said they were brought to my house by a tall man; whom, by her description, I take to be Mr. P—'s gardener." I took the letters (see letter, No. XXXVI.) and perused them. I will leave the reader to judge the greatness of my surprise. I stood speechless for some time, and was scarcely capable of drawing my breath. I would freely have forgiven any person that would have run me through, or shot me dead

dead upon the spot. Mr L—s, seeing my concern, begged that I would not be cast down ; telling me, that time might bring every thing about according to my wishes. I perused her letter over and over, and the more I reflected upon it, the more I sunk under my misfortune. My good friend, Mr. L—s, did all that lay in his power to divert me from despair ; but, at that time, it was no more than holding a candle to the sun.

Pen, Mrs. P——'s servant, came from Monmouthshire the day after Mr. L—s had given me the letters. I went up to Mrs. P——'s house, seemingly unconcerned, as if I had heard not any thing from miss. "Mr. Parry (says the maid) I have mended your stocks, and now I am sure they will fit your stock-buckle ; and I am sure it is the last jobb I ever shall do for you." "Why so (said I) Mrs. Pen ; I hope I have not disobliged you ?" "No, not in the least (said she) Mr. Parry ; but I shall not be in Ross, for my mistress is going to leave off house-keeping." "Pray (said I) how long has madam taken that resolution ?" "Ever since (said she) that you was at L—nt—o last. And my mistress gives her humble service to you, desiring you will take away your spinnet and books. If I had not seen you, I was ordered by my mistress to send your spinnet, &c. to your lodgings." "Well, Mrs. Pen (said I) I shall spare you that trouble, but I am resolv-ed

ed to call upon your mistress to-morrow, in order to acquaint myself with the cause of so sudden an alteration." I harboured no such thought, but was only willing to hear what Pen would say. "I would not advise you to call there (said she) for I really think you will not be so welcome as usual." "I should think myself ungrateful (said I) to pass by your mistress and miss, and not call to see them." "You may call when you please, (said Pen) but I am sure my mistress will not speak to you; and you will never have miss in company with you again as long as you live." "Pray, Mrs. Pen (said I) what crime have I been guilty of, or how have I offended to that degree, that the one will not speak to me, neither shall I ever be in company with the other?" "Mr. Parry (said Pen) I have no way been private to what has past betwixt miss and you: but I do assure you once more, that you will never be alone with miss, neither will she ever lie another night in Ross."

I had my spinnet and books taken away that day. Pen P——, thinking I really intended going to Monmouthshire immediately, made all the haste she possibly could, to get there before me. But whilst she was in Ross, I sent miss a letter (see letter, No. 37.) inclosed in one to J——, the gardener. He gave it her privately, according to my directions; and in three days after, she sent me a letter (see letter, No. 38.) by one Jemmy Preece,

Preece, a plough-boy, in the family. This letter indeed re-animated my spirits. But a little before I received the last letter from miss, I went to Mrs. B—'s, the milliner, and asked her several questions relating to L—nt—o. "Mr. Parry (said she) do not give yourself the trouble of asking me any thing concerning what happened in Monmouthshire, during my stay there, because I will not give you a satisfactory answer. It is true (added she) I know as much of what happened there, as any body ; but, be it as it will, it shall go no further from me."

"There has been (said I) a villainous letter sent to Mrs. P—, concerning miss and me. I wish I knew the author ; but I suspect three, which are Mrs. M—, N— F—'s wife, and yourself." "To satisfy you (said she) of my innocence, I will freely take the sacrament before your face, that I never writ it, neither do I know who did. But by what I can understand, there was a letter sent to Mrs. P—, but by whom God knows, I do not : however, there is the devil to pay about it. All the while I was there, Mrs. P— was as ill-natured as could be, and miss would never let me go out of the room whilst her mamma was there ; and what the reason of this hurly-burly is, I believe no one knows better than yourself."

"There is nothing (said I) that could cause so great a disturbance, excepting that letter sent, and what was inserted in it is as false

as

as God is true, and I would with pleasure forfeit a leg or an arm, to know the vile authors; for by heaven, I should not value setting their houses on fire about their ears." Before I parted with Mrs. B—h, I was thoroughly satisfied of her innocence, and frequented her house often, as usual.

I wrote Parthenissa a letter (see letter, No. 39.) which was delivered to her by J—b G—ge. What added to my misfortune, was, that I could not get my letters answered as I wished for, because she was narrowly watched, and debarred pen, ink and paper, out of her mother's sight.

In the beginning of November, I went to Abergavenny; and, in my way, stopped at the public house adjoining to her brother's; and from thence I sent her a letter (which I had prepared at Ross) by A—se G—od (see letter, No. 40.) who was groom to her brother, and inmate of the public house. He gave it her immediately, and she eagerly opened it, but to her disappointment it was written with juice, so that she could not read it, neither did she think proper to scorch it before him, because she doubted his integrity, because he was a Yorkshire groom: however, she bid him tell me, not to come in sight of any of the family, and to come back the same road, for that she would get a letter ready for me at my return. After he had delivered the message to me (says he) "What a comical letter you sent to miss;

when

when she opened your letter, the devil a word was in it." I could not forbear laughing at him; so took my leave, assuring him, I would be back again in two days; and begged of him, to watch the opportunity of seeing miss alone, whereby she might conveniently slip a letter into his hand for me. He assured me of his fidelity, and I went directly to Abergavenny. There I saw Mrs. P——'s servant. I asked her, how the good family did. She dropped a walking curtesy, and made all the haste she could from me, not caring to be seen talking with me in the street.

I returned to the public house in a day or two, and A——se gave me an open letter from Parthenissa (see letter, No. 41.) which was wrote backwards with a pencil, so that he could not read a word of it. That fellow made me believe the Lord knows what. He swore that he would do me all the service that lay in his power; "And d——n me (said he) if I do not wish that you were between a pair of sheets with Parthenissa." In short (being easily imposed upon) I believed all he said, and it was some time before I found him what he proved to be, i. e. a treacherous v——n.

Some weeks e'er this time, I had written to my best of friends in London, acquainting him of my unhappiness in being separated, and in no likelihood of coming near the person who had captivated my soul. That worthy gentleman was pleased to an-

fwer my letter, which I received (see letter, No. 42.) at my return to Ross.

A week afterwards, I met Ambrose in Monmouth; "Well (says I) what news from your quarter of the world." "Bad (said he) for you, I do assure you." "How so? (said I) impatiently." "Mr. D— J— (said he) is a courting Parthenissa, and his mother pushes the match on; and madam P—, by what I can hear, is not against it." I was so thunder-struck at what he told me, that a person might have blowed me down; but took all imaginable caution to hinder him from seeing me concerned. "Well (said I) let miss marry whom she pleases, I shall always wish her happy." We drank together, then parted. The thoughts of D— J—'s courting her, almost distracted me, and no pen can describe the racking pains the name of a rival gave me; especially, as I knew that I had none, excepting miss, but enemies where she was. I could not help thinking, but that they might prevail upon her to give her hand, if not her heart, to D— J—, notwithstanding what had passed between her and myself. These thoughts bereft me, for some time, of my senses.

I had some thoughts of sending her a letter, written with lemon juice; but considering, that it was with the utmost difficulty that she could scorch it, I wrote one with ink, and took it to L——o, and gave it to Am-

Ambrose, begging of him to give it to Nanny T—, Mr. P—'s dairy-maid. He served me so far faithfully, and the girl, (one who Parthenissa confided in, because she was sincere in what she undertook) gave the letter (see letter, No. 43.) that night to her. Nanny T— came to me, and desired me to be there in three or four days, and she would bring me a letter from Parthenissa. I went to Newport, and returned at the time appointed; and the girl was as good as her word, by bringing me a letter (see letter, No. 44.) she gave me an hearty kiss, assuring me, that Parthenissa had sent it me, upon her lips. The copy was agreeable, and what the original must have been, I will leave the reader to judge.

They may be false, who languish and complain,
But they who part with money never feign.

The girl might have repeated them lines with a safe conscience; for it was not to be imagined that such faithful postage should go franked. I returned miss's compliment, by giving the girl some smacking kisses to carry her. I assured the girl that I would come there again in a week or nine days time; and begged, that she would give my sincere love, &c. to miss, desiring her to write to me often; and, if it was but a line, the sight of her hand-writing inspired me.

When I came to Rofs, Mrs. J—— B—— asked me, if I had any books of Parthenissa's in my custory. I said, Yes. "Parthenissa (said she) has wrote to me, desiring me to ask you for them." Did she send my books (says I) to you?" "I never heard her mention any books (says she) of yours in my life." "Really (said I) they never shall be delivered out of my keeping, until I have an order from Parthenissa, written with her own hand." "Well (said she smartly) here it is;" and with that gave me the paper (see letter, No. 45.) which I took with pleasure. She often asked me for the books, as I had promised them upon sight of the order, but my answer was, no; not till I have my books from her.

Soon after, I went down to Newport, and took L——nt——o in my way, expecting to have heard something from Parthenissa, but could not, by reason of Ambrose's being absent from home, so that I resolved upon coming back the same road. I wrote a letter, whilst at Newport (see letter, No. 46.) and when I came to L——nt——o, gave it Ambrose to give Nanny T——. This letter was unsealed, having neither wax nor wafer in the neighbourhood; and after I left the place, Ambrose, more like a scoundrel than any thing else, shewed the letter to a clergyman, and several others; but none of them could read it, being written backwards. At last he vouchsafed to give it trusty Nanny, who gave

gave it Parthenissa, and not without difficulty, for she had like to have had it snatched from her bosom by a coxcomical cushion-thumper in the neighbourhood, who ought to have had a horse discipline, for his uncommon impudence. Whilst I was there, I bid Nanny T—— tell Pen P——, that I should be glad to speak with her in the church-porch. She came to me trembling, upon which I asked her, what was the matter. "I do not know (said she) but I am all of a sudden taken with a shivering." "Pray, Mrs. Pen (said I) how does madam, miss, and all the family do?" "Never worse (says Pen) no never worse in this world." "What is the matter with them (said I) I hope they are all well?" "I need not tell you (says Pen) what is the matter, for miss and you know better than I can tell you." "I believe (said I) miss knows no more of me, than I do of her." "I am afraid (said Pen) you are too well acquainted with each other. But this (continued she) I can tell you, whatever has past between you cannot be helped; but you will never see her for the future. She repents of what she has done, and curses the very day that she was born upon. She wishes, that she had died in her childhood, and that her tongue was out, for speaking what she has done; nay, she curses her very hands for learning to write." "Really, Mrs. Pen (said I) I cannot see any manner of occasion for miss's giving herself so much un-easiness."

easiness." "Yes, yes (said Pen) she has occasion enough. She has owned now what brought her to Dingestow; the report was, that she went to be married to Mr. J— J—, and that you was the person who brought them together; but that flam is found out. She came to Dingestow, it is true, and for no other business, but to fetch the gold, that you with your nonsensical whim, took from her." "Who I (said I, surprized) me, take gold from her." "Yes, you did (said she) and that was her busines after you to Dingestow; and this she has owned to my mistress and me. I lead a weary life about you, and if you have any honour in you, you will clear me." What Pen had informed me concerning the gold, indeed surprized me; and what Mr. L—— told me in August 1735, came afresh to my memory, viz. "It is my opinion this girl will jilt you, therefore look to yourself."

I assured Pen, that I would justify her so far, that to my knowledge she never knew any thing of what had past between miss and myself. "Have you ever a letter (said Pen) to send miss; if you have one, I will carry it as safe as any body to her, and the postage shall cost you nothing." I thanked her, and assured her that I had not any thing to send, excepting my compliments, and them to miss only; begging of her, to give herself no manner of uneasiness upon my account, for that I was to go in a few days towards a
town

town in the middle of the kingdom. " You wish (says Pen) my mistress at the devil, so you send no service to her." " You know I cannot flatter, (said I) but I wish her in heaven, and so your humble servant." Pen took her leave of me, assuring me, if I at any time would send a letter by her to miss, she would safely deliver it, and bring me an answer. I thanked her for her civility, but never troubled her with one.

When she left me, I could not help reflecting upon what had past between us. First, I thought that miss had an inclination to jilt me, because she mentioned the gold; and I was positive no one could mention it to Mrs. P—. Secondly, I was apprehensive of her telling her mother that I took the money from her, was with no view but that of concealing her design in marrying me, and that the country talk was only a false report. The last thought got the better of me; for, do what I would, I could not think ill of her, notwithstanding I had been informed, before I wrote her the last letter dated from Newport, that young J— often laid his head in her bosom, &c. I was credibly informed by several in the neighbourhood, that he was very busy about her, and that they were frequently seen together, and his lips were hardly asunder from her's; and she seemed well pleased with his pretty whining way of making love. I could not be blest with a sight of her; and the thoughts of a

rival gave me no small uneasiness ; but flung me into that damned distemper jealousy. Oh ! where, thinks I, are all the bitter oaths, vows, protestations, &c. which she made to me when last at Ross, that neither D—
J—, nor any one else, should not kiss her, except it was at coming or going from the family, as a visitor ; and, if she is perjured, heaven blast her with infamy ! and, it is my opinion, that any person that loved to so great a degree of madness as I did, could not hear the name of a rival mentioned, but with horror.

When I came to Ross, I received a letter from the best of friends ; wherein he assured me, that he believed my interest would be the strongest at Birmingham ; and whether I accepted the place or not, he told me, it could not be to my disadvantage to be prepared, and to try myself in practice as much as might be, if the place should be offered me, as he believed it would. This letter I dropped designedly at L—nt—o, which was picked up and shewed Mrs. P—. This unparalleled friendship of a gentleman that I never had seen, and at such a crisis, gave me some flattering hopes of being in a condition to face the world with a light heart, one time or other, whether I was to be so happy as to have Parthenissa once more in my arms or not.

Upon the 19th of January I went to Monmouth, where I met A—se G—d, who imme-

immediately informed me, that Parthenissa was well, and had sent him with money to pay off the interest of a bond which her brother had given to one Mrs. P—ot, and that Mr. Geo. R—ts was to receive it. "But (added he) miss is going to be married to Dicky J—." "Are you sure of this? (said I.)" "I am sure of it (said he) it is certainly so; for he does nothing but kiss and slobber her; and she is very fond of him; and they are to be married speedily." I could not make him any answer, so great was my concern. I left him abruptly, and went that night to Dingestow. I wrote a letter there to her, ready to deliver it to the trusty dairy-maid. I borrowed a case of pistols for safety, and set out from Dingestow the same night to Lant—o, because if I had gone in the day-time, half the parish would run and tell Mrs. P— of my being there. I came there at nine o'clock, and near the public house, a woman asked me in Welch, who was there. Knowing it to be Nanny T—'s voice, I rid up close to her, and gave her the letter (see letter, No. 47.) and she ran with it to Parthenissa, who received it before any one else knew of my being there.

Next morning the girl brought a piece of paper, and beckoned me to come to her at the public house: she did not at that time speak to me, because she saw Mrs. J— coming up a field, in her way to Mr. P—'s; and put the paper under an earthern mug,

upon the chimney-piece in the kitchen ; (see letter, No. 48.) after some little pause, she told me that Pen knew of my being there, and that she wanted to speak with me. I told her, I should be back in two days, &c. The girl made all the haste she could to get home before Mrs. J—— could reach there, and I immediately rode down to Newport.

I returned to Lant—o upon Wednesday, some time in the night. The moment I came into the house, I gave my pistols and cutteau to Ambrose, as I had done two or three days before, who locked them up in his table-drawer, till I went away. Next morning, the poor girl, that carried the letters between miss and myself, came and told me, that Mrs. J—— had abused her in a very gross manner. “ When she came to our house (says the girl with tears) she told madam P—, that she was sure that I had a letter from you to miss. I swore I had no such thing, neither did I ever carry a letter from you to Parthenissa. Mrs. J—— said, she was sure I did, and called me a sorry carrion; telling me, I deserved to be burnt. She called me a great many scandalous names. In short, I was ready to run crazy.” “ Nanny (said I) I would not have you give yourself any uneasiness concerning what she says to you, for her tongue is no slander; and it is not imagined, that a horse should — oats that never eat any. I am sorry, Nanny, with all my soul, that you should be ill used upon my account; and, if it ever lies in my power

to be of any service to you, I shall always be glad to oblige you in any thing. " But what (says the girl) do you think she did besides abusing me? Why, she broke open my box, tore the lock of it to pieces, and rummaged all the house over, thinking to find some of your letters. Jane, of the Ostrey, or some of them, say, you have got pistols." " I have so (said I) I brought them with me to shoot a couple of curs, that bark after me upon the road, and frighten my horse. I gave them Ambrose to lock up, and my sword along with them: so that, if I had an ill design against any body here, I should hardly have delivered my weapons into the hands of an enemy." " That is true too (says the girl) but Mrs. J— is mad to have her son marry Parthenissa." " Does he kiss her (says I) before people?" " Kiss her, (said Nanny) why he does nothing else all day long; and when they are by themselves, he puts his hand in her breast, as far as ever he can, between her shift and her skin." " I shall never give thee any farther trouble (says I) about her. Heaven be with thee; but, for her part, may a legion of devils constantly attend her, for a sanctified, perfidious jilt. Has she received the sacrament for this purpose? The devil must certainly have her, for her perjuries." " She has (says the girl) got devils about her as it is; God deliver me from them: I have given warning to provide themselves with another dairy-maid. Peggy

J—s, is a fly b—, and you are in the wrong if you do not kick her. She has been as busy as the best in contriving to stop your letters, &c." The girl parted from me crying, and I never saw her but once since.

Mrs. J— having heard, that the girl and I were together some considerable time, came to the Ostrey, where I was sitting by the fire-side, and asked for the woman of the house. When the woman came to her, "Jane (said she, with a fiercer look than any of the tan-coloured devils, which are painted upon the church windows of Fairford, in Gloucestershire) what do you mean by harbouring a highwayman in your house?" As she spake, she nodded her head at me. "Pray, madam (said I) who is it you mean, by highwayman? If you mean me, I shall be very apt to make your ladyship repent the language." "Oh! dear Sir (said she, with a cut-throat smile) I do not mention your name, Sir, nor any body's name, Sir (then turning herself to the woman of the house) Jane, pray take care of my son, for I suppose this villain has a mind to murther him." Happy it had been for me, if I could have governed my passion afterwards, as I had done this time. "Madam (says I) I find no fault in your son; I have always wished him well, and have given him evident proofs of it whilst he was at Hereford, by giving him money, and treating him; since you force me to cancel obligations, which I did entirely for Parthenissa's

nissa's sake, knowing him to be something related to her." " You treat my son (said she, scornfully) you poor blockhead, you sorry scoundrel, organ-playing piper." I really could not forbear laughing at her impudence. Away she went, using me with such, nay worse than I have since heard at Billingsgate, where I have often heard them abuse each other.

As I have before hinted, your half-strained gentlewomen are by much the most ridiculous, that a man can converse with: and Mrs. J——, having no right to be thought agreeable, by any one but her husband, by the disadvantage of a very ruff face and carrotty hair, made me, in my surprize, think of some monster, who Sir Richard Blackmore, in his Eliza, describes as follows :

Scylla, and all the monsters of the main,
Were the descriptions true, the poets feign,
Wou'd inoffensive, comely figures be,
Compar'd with this complete deformity.
Her fiery eyes a red malignant glare,
Shot forth their bloody orbits thro' the air:
The fiery breath that from her nostrils came,
With plagues and fevers did the air inflame.
She seem'd all teeth and jaws, prepar'd for
spoil,
Like the arm'd tyrant that infests the Nile, &c.

In about half an hour after Mrs. J—— had disgorged her foul stomach at me, in comes

comes master Dicky, her son and heir. I told him, his mother had used me in a very unbecoming manner, and undeservedly ; for to the best of my knowledge, I never deserved the title of highwayman. " And for your part, Sir (says I) you are sensible, that I have always behaved towards you with a great deal of respect, and was always civil to you, and I have readily obliged you to the utmost of my power." " By G—d (says Mr. Dicky) I do not mind any body's quarrels, let them be of what fort they will." " The devil fetch me (said I) if I do, were they to be begun by any person whatsoever." So after he and I had drank part of two or three quarts of ale, he was sent for to Mrs. P——'s, by order of his precious mamma. And before he reached the house, he called to Ambrose, and shewed him a brace of loaded pistols, which he brought with him on purpose to have shot me through the head, if I had spoken any thing disrespectfully of Parthenissa. My poor little pistols were safe in Ambrose's drawer, and if both of us had had the resolution to have drawn a trigger against each other, I should have stood but an indifferent chance, being a strong-set man of five feet nine, and he a thin youth of about five feet six ; for I might as well aim at the edge of a pen-knife as at him. But I had given over all hopes of Parthenissa, from the minute Nanny T——, our trusty confidant, declared her to be handled, kissed, &c.

by

by young J— : however, I was resolved to stay a day longer than at first. I really intended at L—n—o, to fret Mrs. J—.

Upon the Friday, after I had walked several times in the church-yard, Pen came to me. Our talk at first ran upon Mrs. J—'s abusing me. At last she changed her tone, by saying, "Mr. Parry, I do assure you, that whatever has past between miss and you, is at an end, She never will write to you any more, therefore it will be needless for you to give yourself any farther trouble about her. Miss is sure of being turned out of doors, the moment she marries against my mistress's consent. I am sure you do not believe what I say; but here is something, written with miss's own hand, that will convince you." At that Pen took an unsealed paper out of her pocket, and gave it me (see letter, No. 49.) "My mistress (added Pen) has but at present a small income; and it would go but a little way in maintaining miss and you, and perhaps half a dozen little brats. It is my opinion, indeed, Mr. Parry, that as you have friends a working for you, to get you a good place, your best way would be to strive and get it, and never think of Parthenissa any more." "Mrs. Pen (said I) I beg you will give my respects to miss, and assure her from me, that I wish her all happiness imaginable." "I will certainly deliver your message (says Pen) but must beg you will do me the justice you promised me;

which

which was, to convince my mistress and the family, by letters, that I am innocent of your whole affairs. I cannot say (continued she) but this is a judgment upon miss, for her ill usage to me. I could not imagine what was the reason that I could have no civil answer from her, to any thing I said. But now it is come home to her. But yet I pity her, and am sorry for you ; and if you have any letter to send her, I will carry it." "I have no such thing to send her (said I) and you may be satisfied, that I shall write to Mrs. P——, to assure her, that you have been no way assisting in my amour with miss."

Pen left me trembling, and incapable of speaking, myself at the same time wishing for the death of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. I perused the paper that Pen gave me a hundred times over, cursing the subject, and my ill fate. I left the place with greater reluctance, than a widow could part with a f—— p——. Had heaven been so propitious, as to have directed my thoughts, in taking her advice, I had been happy ; but fate decreed it otherwise.

I went to Dingestow from thence, and did not reach Ross in five days ; during which time there was a current report there, that I was married to Parthenissa, and that I was in Monmouthshire, demanding my wife at her mother's hands. In Mr. D——es, of Wilton's family, whom I shall speak more of here-

hereafter, it was believed to be fact, because a Monmouthshire justice had been there, and had said, that he had heard something like it. I was a stranger to all this; and some of that family believed me to have been married for some time past. But when I came to Ross, I was wished joy by several people. I asked them, of what. "Of what (said they) of an agreeable wife, with a good fortune." I thanked near an hundred for their good wishes; and assured them, there was not any thing in the report. The more I denied it, the more compliments I received, till at last I was wished joy by so many, that I was resolved to give my breath no longer vent, but thanked them, and would not stop to talk with them. Going, the same day I came home, to Mrs. B—h, the milliner's, she asked me, what the people meant, by talking after the rate they did. I told her, I knew of no foundation for their so doing; but that several had wished me joy, and said, the reason of my staying in Ross so long, was come out, for there was a wife in the case. "To be sure (said Mrs. B—h) there can be nothing in it, for when I was there in October last, I told you before, there was the devil to pay there. I talked with miss a great deal, and told her, that it was whispered by several people she was going to be married to you. Then, says Parthenissa (very disdainfully) I wish the town's people would provide husbands and wives for each other;

other ; and I am not obliged in the least to them for mentioning such an one as Parry for mine. One thing is, mamma will never trouble Ross any more ; so that, it is to be hoped, they will have somebody else to talk of. I do not know any thing of the matter (said Mrs. B—h to Parthenissa) but it is believed, that you are either married or engaged to him." " Why then (says Parthenissa) as I hope to be saved, I never have had any thoughts of him, and I do not care if the devil had him, or if he was hanged, or transported, for I hate the very name of him." " All this (says Mrs. B—h) Parthenissa told me, I will take my oath of it ; and at the same time, she begged that I would not speak about it, for she would not have the reason of her mamma's leaving Ross made known for the world. And you know (continued Mrs. B—h) that I have neither made nor meddled with it one way or other : and it is you know best what has past between you, but I am afraid, you are neither of you better than you should be." This instance of Parthenissa's perfidiousness (notwithstanding she had sent me several letters, after her interview with Mrs. B—h) gave me an uncommon shock ; insomuch, that I had not the power to answer Mrs. B—h, so left her.

Now there came a passage that happened between my eldest sister and myself afresh into my memory. In 1733, she came to Ross,

Ross, in her way to London ; and after civilities that commonly pass between brothers and sisters, who have been for some time separated, I left her about five minutes. I ran to Parthenissa, and asked her, if a sight of my picture would please. " Yes, my dear (said she) that it would." " Do you run up stairs, and open your chamber window (said I) and you shall see me lead my sister Nancy, in the walk joining to the church-yard wall. She is this minute come to town, and is obliged to be in Gloucester to night." " Cannot you bring her here (said miss) to drink a dish of tea ?" " No, not for the world (said I) that indeed would be giving people cause to suspect our intrigue." I went to the inn, and brought up my sister into the church-yard. Seeing Parthenissa in the window, I bid my sister take a full view of her, which she accordingly did. After we had passed by, I asked my sister how she liked her ; she said, well enough. I then told her all the affair, and how miss had given me undeniable proofs of her love, before I had presumed to kiss her. My sister heard me very attentively ; and when I had told her all I could think of, she said, " Heaven avert the destruction that, I am afraid, this girl will bring upon you. My dear brother, you are young, and unacquainted with the ways of women, therefore set not your heart upon her, for by what you have told me, she is slippery, and there

there is nothing certain this side of the grave but death, and that very uncertain ; therefore, drop your amour with this Parthenissa, for something tells me, she will ruin you inevitably, &c." Had my sister been an Isaiah, or a Jeremy, she could not have prophesied more to the purpose ; for as she said, so it fell out, as you will find hereafter.

When I left Mrs. B—h, I reflected very much upon what she had informed me, and strove with all my might to erase Parthenissa quite out of my memory ; but do all I could, my endeavours proved abortive.

I went to the Post-Office, and received an agreeable letter from my dear friend (see letter, No. 50.) which made me somewhat easier in my temper than I had been for sometime before.

Mr. C—ke's family, hearing the report of my marriage with Parthenissa, sent to Mrs. P—, to know, whether there was any thing in it or not. Parthenissa sent a letter, directed to Miss Jenny C—ke, wherein she called the Almighty God (who had inspired her with the sense of writing) to witness, that she never was married to me, nor ever would be ; neither had she had any affection for me, or ever thought of me as a husband or lover ; and added, I am afraid the villain will counterfeit my hand-writing.

Hell could not produce so perfidious a w—, so incarnate a devil, nor so false and damned a fiend. Was not this usage enough to

to have made any mortal man run mad? especially, one that had been so very familiar with her, and one that never had spoke flghtingly of her, nor gave the least intimation to his bosom friends of what had past between them.

I stifled my resentment, till such time that I could not possibly bear my ill usage any longer. Miss Jenny C—ke shewed Parthenissa's letter publicly; and Mrs. B—h swore to me, that she had seen it. Mrs. P— sent to Mr. C—ke, begging, that he would think of some way or other to have me taken up, for she thought herself in danger; and insinuated, that I intended coming with arms, &c. to deprive her of life, daughter, or something or other. Mr. C—ke, being one of Parthenissa's guardians, (and had, I have great reaon to believe, thoughts of having her for a daughter-in-law) was resolved to have me taken into custody; so sent a letter to Mr. A—y, of Worcester, begging that he would inform himself by counsellor T—r, for reasons inserted in his letter. The answer was, that no man could be troubled for endeavouring to make his fortune, nor for carrying on an intrigue; especially, with a girl of three or four and twenty years of age: but he may be taken up for riding with a gun or pistols, being unqualified. I was not informed of this proceeding till some time afterwards, and then

then James S—e, Esq; told me of it, as he had it verbatim from Mrs. P—.

Mr. C—ke sent several letters to H—R— W—f—ng, Esq; desiring that he would give Mr. S—rd and him the meeting at Ross, upon the 23d of February 1735-6, in order for the issuing out a special warrant for securing me, to answer to the aforementioned crimes. Mr. W—f—ng, guessing foul play to be upon the carpet, declined coming for some time; but at last, being over-persuaded by Mr. C—ke, who went to visit him purposely, he agreed to meet the other two at Ross, upon the day fixed. I was informed by one of the justice's relations, of the intended meeting. Thinks I, let them meet and be d—n'd, I shall not neglect my business, to see the event of their proceeding. I am conscious of my own innocence, in not having offended any one, unless it is Mrs. P—, and her I value not.

The justices met upon Monday the 23d at Rōss, and granted out a warrant against me; Mr. C—ke gave it into my landlord's hands, in order to speak with me the sooner. For my part, I went to Monmouthshire, where I met with greater difficulties, than would have happened to me, provided I had stayed in Ross.

The day that I set out, was upon Sunday the 22d, intending to go to Newport to teach miss G—n. I stopped at Monmouth, and drank more negus than I could well bear,
with

with a clergyman, and two more of my acquaintance. They informed me, that I certainly should lose Parthenissa, for that she was going to be married to young J—, and they did nothing but tee and toy, kiss and slobber, all the live long day. "What is it to me (said I, dissembling my agony) who she marries? I was her music-master, and have now nothing to say to the family, any more than a demand of money due to me from her mother, for instructing the daughter in music." "Does she not (said the clergyman) play the flute?" "Yes, Sir (said I.)" He replied, "Did you teach her that instrument?" I answered him in the negative. "Why then (says he) you have taught her the silent flute, or else you are damnabley belied." "Pray, Sir (said I) do not talk too idly of her." "Pho, pho (said he) hold thy tongue, say what thou wilt, there is none here will believe any thing to the contrary: so here is to thee, my boy, &c." I parted with my company, and rid to Rockfield; and in going through the village, one — P—ce, who kept the Unicorn, called after me, and asked me, whither I was going. "I am (said I) going to Abergavenny, and from thence down to Newport." "By G—d, (says Price) you are never the nearer to go to Lan—o." I asked him, "What reason he had for saying so, and was not the road as free for me as another?" "I tell you what, master (said he) we know how the market goes,

goes, by the market people: one of Mrs. P—'s tenants told me, that you were to be married to miss, and that he believed it, because he had seen you very familiar together: but now you are blown, Sir, and she is actually going to be married to Mr. J—'s son. He does nothing but kiss her; and one would think that she is in damnable want of a —— to let such an unlicked whelp as that is mouth her." "He is (said I) a pretty young gentleman" "Pretty or not (said Price) he tumbled and mumbled her last Sunday in the church-yard, and as he flung her down, forty people might have seen her a——, and her —— too." I had not patience to hear the man express himself so bluntly; however, I alighted and called for a pint of brandy, wherewith I got mad drunk, and rode to Lan——o. It was ten thousand to one that I had not broke my neck; but heaven reserved me for future troubles. When I came to the public house, I whistled at the door; and as I alighted off my horse, Am—se G——d came to the door, and stopped my going into the house, telling me, I should not have any entertainment there. "What is the meaning of this usage to me, Am—se, (says I) is all your promised friendship come to this? Pray do I owe you any thing?" "I do not say you do (said he) but your horse shall not have a feed of corn here; neither will I draw you a drop of ale, or any thing else." "I am sure you cannot lawfully refuse

fuse me entertainment (said I) as long as I pay for what I call, and by G—d, I will have a feed for my horse, and eatables for myself, before I go hence." "By G—d (says he) you shall not." With that he pushed me out of doors, down two or three steps; and told me, "That madam P— had given him orders for so doing." "Madam P— (said I, raving) G—d d—n her for a smoaking, dirty, old b—h." I instantly tied my horse to the church-yard gate, and (unhappily for me) from whence I went to Mrs. P—, with no other intent but that of asking her, what she meant by using me in the vile manner she had done.

I knocked at the door, which was opened by J— G—d, who had run there across the garden, to inform Mrs. P— of my being in the parish, and asked where Mrs. P— was. The servants said, that she was not to be spoken with. "I want to know (said I) what she means by hindering me from being entertained as a common traveller upon the road, and by G—d I will speak with her before I leave the place, or else I will die upon the spot." Mrs. P— and her daughter were in a little parlour, guarded by old and young J—, and some men armed with swords and pistols. I was going towards the room they were in, when three or four women, and some ploughmen, pushed me back; and the more they dissuaded me from going there, the more I was bent upon it. The

parlour door was barricado'd, and the three stout men that guarded the ladies were in great eagerness for coming out to cut me in pieces. But Mrs. P—— kept them in by mere strength, notwithstanding the strug-glings of these dunghill heroes to the contra-ry. I own myself to be far from what peo-ple call a fighting man, but if they had come out, I should have sold my life at a dear rate in that mad passion ; for equal terms was no more to be expected there, than constancy from a common whore, honesty from a law-yer, or friendship from F—k V—t.

In the mean time, the people in the kitchen were stirring to push me out of the house. " Hold, d—n ye (said I) I have a wife or something worse here, where is she ?" If you have a wife here, says the house-keeper, come in a peaceable manner for her, &c. The champions in the parlour cried, turn him out, turn the rascal out. Hearing Mr. J—s's voice, put me, if possible, into a greater passion than ever. I d—d them for a pack of w— ; and thought I was ill used, con-sidering that I had enjoyed the best in the family, with an intent to have begotten an heir, &c. to the estate. However I was forced to march out of the house, which I flattered myself to have spent some part of my life in, one time or other.

I went back to the public house, and Mrs. P—, by the advice of her privy counsellor Mr. J—s, sent word to A—se, that he might

might let me have any thing I called for, without displeasing her ; resolving in the mean time, to send for a warrant, to take me up. I found afterwards, that J—s S— had granted one before to Mrs. P—, for riding with pistols, &c. so that I was to have been taken up in Monmouthshire, as well as Herefordshire (if this unhappy accident had not happened) through the management of good Mr. C—ke, and the sanctified Mrs. P—.

At my return to the Ostrey, I drank a mug of ale ; and as the moon shined bright, I was for going that night to Usk, a town about seven miles distant ; but H— P—, A. M. (one who was a scandal to the cloth, and had been in the spiritual court for fornication) persuaded me to stay there that night ; well knowing that there was a warrant out against me, and that they could not take me upon the sabbath day. Being importuned by P—, (alias C—er) I ordered my horse to be put up ; so sat and drank with the wolf in sheep's cloathing, until twelve. (He died since, and it is beneath me to revile the dead ; but if he had lived, I would have given the bishop of the diocese, whom I had the honour to be known to, an account of his life and morals.)

About half an hour after twelve o'clock, he bid the woman warm his bed ; " For (says he) it is time for me to be gone, having done my duty ; and I beg (says he to a

constable) that you will do yours." The moment the parson left the room, the constable, whose name was M——w M——n, jumped across my thighs, and pushed me backwards, with my head against the wall. After that piece of ceremony, he was so civil as to tell me, that he had a warrant against me. "I must search your pockets," said he, for pistols." I assured him he was welcome. Accordingly he did, and upon finding none, he took my cutteau from my side. "I never, said I, will disown a constable's authority, but I never saw any man serve a warrant in such a facetious manner before. Pray, Mr. M——n, is it the custom of the place, to knock a man down, and afterwards bid him stand?" He made me no answer, and I fell asleep by the fireside until eight o'clock in the morning, having a guard of tatterdemallions to attend me. When I awakened, I was surprised to see myself surrounded by such sort of gentry. Some of the tenants asked me, if the devil was not in me, by going to the great house, calling madam and Parthenissa all the w—s in England? "God forbid (said I);" (for I knew no more than the child unborn, of what I had said and done the night before; and the foregoing particulars were told me the day following, by one of the family.) "It is true indeed," says one, then another, &c. Then in comes Mr. T— J—s with a stern look, saying, "Jemmy Parry, was the devil

devil in thee to abuse my sister P— and miss last night, calling them vile names, and committing such an outrage? My sister was never so ill used in her life, and is resolved to prosecute you with the utmost rigour of the law." " I was very much in liquor (said I) and am heartily sorry for what I have done; and I will willingly give Mrs. P— any satisfaction she requires, in the most public manner. I wish it had pleased God that I had broke a leg or an arm; nay, even that I had been struck dead, before I came near her house last night; and if that blockhead Am—se had not pushed me, drunk as I was, I never should have gone near her." " By G—d (said Mr. J—s) Jemmy, I am sorry for thee; but my sister P— will ruin thee, if thou wert worth ten thousand pounds. She does not value what you have said of her, it is her daughter's honour that she stands by. A young gentlewoman of five or six thousand pounds fortune, to be degraded by your insolent talk, will not be made up on easy terms; and by G—d, I tell you, Mrs. P— will spend five hundred pounds, but that she will be revenged of you." Seeing myself in Huckster's hands, I swore in a great passion, that Mrs. P— might do what she would, I did not value her of a farthing. " I have (continued I) in a manner married her daughter, who is a vile jilt, and I have had carnal knowledge of her body hundreds of times;

all this I will prove, when put to the test: so that by what I say, you may see I despise Mrs. P—, and all her adherents." Mr. J—s stared, as much surprised at me, as if I had been a calf with six legs and a top-knot. I begged the favour of the constable, as he had a warrant against me, to take me to the justice's. " You need not be in a hurry (says he) for madam P— has sent for Mr. S—, and he will be here presently." Mr. S— came to Mrs. P— about two o'clock, when she and her friends told their tale, you may be sure, no way to my advantage. Mr. S— was one (if I may use the expression) that could see as far as another into a mill-stone, and was sure that if he should be obliged to commit me, it would be very much to the disadvantage of Parthenissa's character. " Madam (said he to Mrs. P—) give me leave to go to Mr. Parry, and I will engage to persuade him to go out of the country, and he never shall come near you, nor your house, any more." " She replied, Mr. S—, say what you will, he shall go to goal." " If I do commit him (says Mr. S—) I am really afraid, it will be flinging dirt in miss's face; therefore, madam, let me beg of you to give me leave to speak with Mr. Parry." " You shall not, says she, and if you have any friendship for me and my family, you will take the people's affidavits, and commit him." " But madam (replied the justice) if he gives bail, I cannot commit

commit him." "If any body, said she, in this neighbourhood is bail for him, I shall look upon them as my greatest enemies: and let people think what they will of my daughter, I had rather she should be Parry's whore, than his wife." "In short, so should not I" (replied the justice).

Dinner being sat upon the table, the old gentleman fed heartily, and Mrs. P— plied him plentifully with liquor; so at last, by virtue of — from Mrs. P—, he made my mittimus, and gave it to the constable's hand. Having so done, he immediately came to me at the public house, and took me with him into the garden. He there informed me of what had been said and done. "Do all I could (said he) Mrs. P— would have you committed." "I thank you for your civility, Sir (said I) but mark what I say; Mrs. P— will repent her not letting me go about my business, for she will expose her daughter by it, as long as she lives. I do not question but I shall be plagued by Mrs. P—, &c. for some months; but, in requital thereof, I shall plague them as long as they live." "I told madam P— so (replied he) but she would not hearken to me." "I hope, Sir (said I) you will give me time to send for bail." "Yes, with all my heart (said he;) and I will tell thee what I will do (because I believe thou hast been in the body of Parthenissa); the constable shall go along with you to Dingestow,

L 4 you

satisfying him for his trouble, if you think Mr. J— will be bound for your appearance ; nay, if he sends me but a line that you shall appear : and if he will not do that, you must go to goal, till you give security : but do not offer to give the constable the slip." " G—d d—n me (said I) if I would not rot in a goal before I would give them an inch of ground." Mr. S— went home ; and I thought the constable was to have taken me to Dingestow, as he had been ordered, but in that I was sadly mistaken. The constable acquainted Mr. J— that he had orders to go with me to Dingestow ; whereupon, he goes and tells Mrs. P—, thinking that that would be a means to prevent my being imprisoned ; they joined their heads together, and sent for the constable, and there (between threats and fair promises, besides money in hand) they persuaded the fellow from going to Dingestow, and made him resolve upon taking me to Monmouth goal. The fellow told me, he would not go to any place with me, but Monmouth. " Why then (said I) you shall go with me there to-night." He told me, it was too late, and that I should go in the morning. In the mean time, I sent a man and horse to Dingestow, acquainting that worthy gentleman with my unhappy situation, and hoping that he would be a surety for me. It was with a great deal of difficulty, that I could get a person to go for me, lest they should incur

incur Mrs. P—'s displeasure. At last, a Brecknockshire fellow gave her a g— d—, and went with speed.

I might have escaped from the constable, I believe, without a great deal of difficulty, but I scorned the action; and if I had done so, my perfidious jilt would have been thought a modest and virtuous young lady. God knows what I say to be true; her virtue and modesty are both affected, and (to my certain knowledge) nature has nothing to do with either of them; and as she had basely jilted me, and myself having acted the part of a madman, I was willing to make the best of a bad market. I sent Mrs. P— a letter, wherein I assured her of "My hearty concern for what had happened, and that I should be glad to ask her forgiveness in the most public manner, and acknowledge my indiscretion unfeignedly; but if that she would send me to goal, she would debar me from a very good place, which I was in election of, and that I should of course lose it, if imprisoned, together with my livelihood; for my being in goal would be no secret to the country circumjacent. I assured her further, that if she did send me to prison, she would oblige me to vindicate myself, by publishing the amour, and letters, between her daughter and me; which I would not do for a thousand pounds, unless she proceeded against me, as before mentioned, &c."

The constable, who was by this time become a little sociable, took the letter, and gave it into Mrs. P—'s hands. She told him, she would not answer it; which nettled me to that degree, that I was resolved to vex her as much as I possibly could: the which to effect, I wrote her another letter; wherein I gave her an account how miss and myself married each other; where we consummated; and that there was, in a particular place, still in being (if it had not been cut off, or washed away) an undeniable testimony of her lost m—d. This letter answered my purpose, by its driving her almost raving. Mr. J—s came once more to me, and asked me how I came to write such a letter to his sister-in-law? “I am a little whimsical (says I); and as it was the first thing that came uppermost, I was resolved to communicate my thoughts to her. The style in it is plain; and I'll swear every syllable of it to be fact.” “By G—d (said he) I do not think that there ever was such a letter wrote before in England.” We talked together for some considerable time; and as he was related by marriage, I acquainted him with the real facts from first to last; protesting, that as Mrs. P— was bent upon my ruin, I would make the world truly sensible of the whole affair. “Your spouse (says I) called me highwayman, and other opprobrious language, which is not in her, nor any body's power to prove; which is usage that a person of common

common honesty ought to blush at. My honesty was never called in question ; and even Mrs. P—, who I am sure is the greatest enemy I have, or ever had, cannot accuse me with any base action, unless it be that of enjoying her daughter ; that, to be sure, she thinks villainous in me ; but it was such a delicious morsel, that I would suffer myself to be called ten thousand times worse than your wife can call me, for such another."

" By my soul (replied Mr. J—s) I am sorry for you both ; I mean Parthenissa and you."

The man that I had sent to Dingestow returned, and brought me word, that Mr. J—es would be over with me by nine o'clock next morning, in order to be my bail. I own this was a favour that I had not the least title to expect from that gentleman ; but his good-nature over-looked the freedom I took in sending to him. He came at the time appointed, intending to do me a piece of service, but was prevented from it at that time, as you will find. Mrs. P— and Mrs. J—s, with the rest of their infernal crew, hearing that Mr. J—s was to be there at nine, in order to be my surety, resolved that the constable should take me away, before he could reach Llant—lo.

There lay with me, besides the constable, a villain, who was a servant to Mr. J—s, one that, to oblige his master, would say or swear any thing. And I am verily persuaded, that if it had come into Mrs. J—'s head

to have me murthered (I do not know how she came to forget it) the villain would have executed her commands. They had fixed the time for taking me to Monmouth, and about seven o'clock I was asked to rise ; but not getting up as soon as they required me, Mrs. J—s's myrmidon came into the room, and pulled the bed-cloaths from off me, which obliged me to rise ; but if I had had a sword or pistol in the room, I would have made his life a forfeit for his uncommon insolence. They were for setting out immediately, but I swore I would not stir till nine o'clock. Then in came my evil genius (Mrs. J—s) and asked the constable why he did not go ? and what he staid for ? Then comes her husband, putting in his oar, saying to me ; " Come, come, set out, Mr. J—s cannot be of any service to you here, the constable must take you to Monmouth, and Mr. J—s may bail you there : the constable cannot, neither will he take you to Mr. S—'s ; for the warrant and commitment are in his hands, and the justice's handwriting goes beyond his word." " You may talk what you will (says I) but by G—d I'll not budge till nine o'clock ;" and whilst I took a turn or two in the garden, they (who the devil will one day trick) put the clock forward 50 minutes. The constable importuned me all along, till the clock struck nine ; then indeed I prepared myself to get on horseback ; and just before I mounted,

mounted, Nanny T——s (who had been confidant to miss and myself) came and informed me, that Parthenissa cried, ready to break her heart. That news (notwithstanding my ill usage) shocked me more than the thoughts of going to a prison. "Remember my love to her (said I) for thou hast been a witness of it, and tell her, she can blame no one but herself, for all the misfortunes that inevitably will befall us. Had she but taken her mother aside, and spoke but the least kind word to her in my behalf, I never should have been suffered to go to a prison, in the manner I now must." The poor girl shed tears, and bid me adieu.

The guard that attended me to goal, consisted of the constable, Mrs. J——s's villain, and young master Dicky, my rival, who, by his mammy's order, had put on his pap-pa's hanger, to make him look big. Mrs. J——s, and two or three plough-boys, gave three or four huzza's, for joy, at my setting out for Monmouth, and I said no more to her at parting, than "The devil go with thee; and may all the curses contained in the hundred and ninth psalm, befall thee, and attend thy mushroom family." Upon the road to Monmouth, I could not help ruminating upon the old song;

"Love has been th' occasion of my overthrow."

I must do that justice to my rival, he used me very civilly; and when I came into the prison,

prison, we drank together, but I could not eat any thing with him, having my stomach full already: and when the goaler's wife heard me say, I could not eat any thing, she told me, in a very insolent manner, peculiar to herself, that she would warrant me a good stomach, if I staid there any considerable time.

I cannot describe the concern I was in the first day of my imprisonment; but a letter from Mr. J—s revived me. He was at L—t—o in less than ten minutes after I had left it, and could not come to Monmouth till the Thursday following; upon which day, he assured me he would bail me out. In the interval, I sent a letter to Mrs. P—, (by James Fish) and one to Miss; charging him to give that of Mrs. P—'s into her own hands, but that of miss's to Nanny T—, the dairy-maid; and if he could not come at the sight of her, he was to put it behind an iron dripping-pan in the publick-house kitchen; the purport of which was, "That if she had any regard for her honour, she would call her mamma aside, and lay, in some measure, the affair open to her; lest that by my being detained in prison, I should be obliged, in justice to myself, to expose her letters, &c." The letter to the old lady was a whole sheet, filled with the circumstantial heads of the narrative, as far as her knowledge extended. Fish W—s rode to Mrs. P— with all the velocity imaginable, and met

met with the girl, who was to take miss's letter. When she took it, she told him, it was not the first letter, by a great many, that she had carried between miss and me; and shewed him a place where he should put letters in for miss, if at any time he missed sight of her. He afterwards went to Mrs. P—, and gave her the other letter, which she looked over whilst he stood by. " You may stay (said she) and see it burnt, if you please." " You may, (says Fish) burn your-self, and be d—n'd, along with it, for what I care;" so pulled the door after him, and returned to me. I wrote miss another letter, " expressing my concern more for her, than for myself; for that I should be out the day following, and if she would write me a line by the bearer, I assured her I would be conformable to any thing she would require of me." Fish put the letter behind the pan, according to the girl's directions, but the girl was stopped by some of the family, and the letter was taken from her, and burnt, before Parthenissa saw it. This accident flung miss into a violent passion; and the first time she met the poor girl privately, she fell a kicking her severely, for what the faithful servant could no way avoid.

Mr. J—s came to Monmouth, in company with E—d B—ry, Esq; (who had been newly put into a commission of the peace) intending to bail me out; but the goaler had the impudence to tell them, that

it was not in the power of any justice to supercede a commitment for a forcible entry. Mr. B—ry, not having been bred to the law, nor long in commission, did not care to supercede; neither would he, altho' Mr. J—s offered him a thousand pound bond to indemnify him.

When Mr. J—s informed me of it, I was chagrin'd; but he advised me not to be uneasy about it, for he would get me out the next day, if there was any probability for his so doing. He went that night to J—s S—e's, Esq; who immediately superceded my commitment, and I was released.

The moment I obtained my liberty, I rode towards Newport; and at my return from thence, I made L—o in my way home. The thoughts of my being there, gave Mrs. P— an uncommon uneasiness; but A—se G---d behaved in a quite different manner to what he had done before, being fearful (as I imagine) of a prosecution from me, for his insolence the foregoing Sunday. Mrs. P— wanted to be informed, whether I staid there all night or not; upon which, miss told her, it was no business of her's; whether I did, or no; and that it was very hard I should not travel the road for them. This I was told by the wife of A—se. I went to Dingestow that night, and from thence, next morning, to Mr. S—'s, in order to give my own security for my appearance at the next

next sessions. After some talk concerning our affair, he protested to me, if I would write a couple of letters to Mrs. P— and miss, he would deliver them separately. After I had informed him what was in my power to prove, I wrote two letters whilst with him ; he took them, and promised he would tell Mrs. P— what she was to expect, if she carried on the prosecution against me. I went from thence to Ross, assuring Mr. S— I would return in nine days, to know Mrs. P—'s real intentions.

When I came to Ross, several were glad to see me, and others wondered how I came out of goal so soon, knowing that I had such potent adversaries as Mrs. P— and Mr. C—ke. I expected, indeed, that the latter would have contrived some unwarrantable means to come at my papers, but I happily was mistaken, for when I came home, I found my chamber-door padlocked ; which caution my landlord took, to prevent any one's breaking in. A constable (one W— W—) informed me, that there had been a warrant out against me, but that Mr. C—ke had taken it up, upon hearing that I was confined in Monmouth. The minute one Geo. R—, a petty-fogger, heard that I was imprisoned, he joyfully went and told one Mr. D—s, who was a friend of mine, that the rascal Parry was in Salvo Custode. I own, when I heard it, I was under some concern ; for I never used the fellow ill, although

though I knew him to be the most worthless, the most pernicious, the most detestable of all mankind; the pest and bane of human society.

Mr. D——y (who now practises physic) came to me, trembling with passion, for some books I had of his. "Sir (added he) you have a knack of counterfeiting people's hands." "That came, Sir (said I warmly) from my jilt's letter to miss J——y C——ke, and she will have no great occasion to brag of her shewing the letter, I'll give you my word. But could I be so happy as to speak with miss J——y, I would inform her of several passages that happened between my precious devil and her, whereby miss C——ke would be assured that I know all their secrets. Do not be uneasy (continued I) because you have been baulked of a wife, who has been my mistress." He left me, and I pitied him, having no more to bestow upon him. He fell ill, and left the town for above a year. His smooth-faced brother wondered at his being such a fool as to think of Parthenissa, for that he could command, at any time, as great a fortune. That was a d——d lie (but that was not to be sticked at) for Mr. D——y had not fifteen hundred pounds, and Parthenissa would be a fortune of several thousands, after her mother's death, and other relations.

H——R——ll W——ng, Esq; having heard the report of my being married to Parthenissa;

nissa ; but particularly, that the reverend Mr. D—s, of St. B—all's (in the forest of D—n) was the person who performed the ceremony, and being one day in company with the reverend Mr. B—n (rector of W—n under Pennyard, Herefordshire) he desired that he would inform himself, by writing to Mr. D—, whether he had married such a couple, or not ; and if he did not marry them (says Mr. W—ng) I shall think it a fictitious story.

For my part, I cannot pretend to say, whether Mr. B—n wrote, or not. I am sure, if he did, it was needless, for I had never seen Mr. D— ; but if he had wrote to Mr. D—s of Brungwin, he might indeed have had some account of an intended wedding.

An accident happened at this time which vexed me more than all the troubles that befel me heretofore. The morning that I intended to set out for Monmouthshire, I went to look up Parthenissa's letters, and, to my great confusion, missed two of them ; forgetting (so great was my perplexity) that I had put one into a private drawer that was in my chest, and the other into a music-book. I swore and raved, but to no purpose. The woman that cleaned my room said, that she had swept out some papers from my room, and that she saw one Nancy Scott take up a piece of paper, who swore by G—d that it was one of Parthenissa's letters

letters to me. I ran to Nan Scott, and asked her for it; she told me that Dick W—s had got it. I went to him, and he refused it me; upon which, I took a case-knife, and swore I would rip him open, if I had it not that minute. He seeing my resolution, immediately gave it me, which proved to be the letter, No. 24. I took fourteen of the letters to Dingestow, and copied them out, leaving the originals there. One Will. W—, butler to John J---s, Esq; of Llanarth, meeting me at Monmouth, he informed me, that Mr. Tho. J---s had been at their house, and had talked a great deal to no purpose, concerning Parthenissa and myself. "He told my master (said W---b) that Parthenissa never wrote to you in her life-time, but that you counterfeit her letters." "He is a liar (said I) and I will prove him so." After having thanked W--- for his information, I wrote Mr. J--- a letter, wherein I demanded to know, by what authority he gave himself those airs, in aspersing me so vilely. I sent the letter by one — P—ps, a wet quaker; but before he reached Mr. J—'s house, I met him himself at Ragland. "Pray, Sir (said I) what do you mean by raising such a report, that I counterfeit Parthenissa's hand-writing?" He asked me, who told me so. "Will. W— (said I) and you mentioned the very words to him in his pantry, at Llanarth." "'Efaith, now I think on it (said he) I might say such a thing,

thing, for Parthenissa told me so." "Parthenissa (said I) is a vile perfidious jilt, and does not value what she says. She knows too well, that I have a great many material letters of hers, and that I have evidences to prove her writing them, and delivering them with her own hands, in order to be given to me. Is not there Mrs. J—es and Mr. S—rd, ready to prove that I offered to part with her, and to deliver up her letters, if she would give me mine? that was the time that she gave me a purse of gold; and I like a silly, fond, doating puppy, gave it her again, for which I deserve pistoling. Her saying, continued I, that I counterfeit her hand, is the most bare-faced lye that she could invent, which indeed surprizes me. There's hundreds in this county, who know my hand-writing to be but very ordinary, and her's to be an exceeding fine one; so that my counterfeiting her letters is a thing morally impossible, and highly improbable; and if any person will make it apparent after I produce the letters, that they are counterfeits, I will forfeit my blood, which is so much sought for by Mrs. P—, and your wife. Besides, had it been in my power to have imitated her writing, the characters which were invented by miss J— C—ke and her, would corroborate with me, for I knew no more of them than the unborn infant, till Parthenissa taught them me. I tell you what, Sir, continued I, to pretend

pretend reasoning with Mrs. P—, would be like grasping of air: but if you will name the time and place, and give me the meeting, I'll bring her letters with me, not in the least doubting, but that I shall convince you in every one of my assertions." "I am sorry, says Mr. J—, for you both; but I tell thee what, Jemmy Parry, by G—'tis my opinion, that she will neither marry thee, nor my son. Miss and your son, said I, may do as they think proper; but I do assure you, that I have married her, though in an odd way I confess, and have been in the carcass of her hundreds of times; so that let who will marry her, there will be no porter's work; and you may tell your son from me, she has room for his leg." "The devil was in you both, said he." So turned his horse's head, and rode from me.

From Ragland I went to J—es S—'s, Esq; he assured me, that he had delivered my letter to Mrs. P—, and that he had begged the favour of her to peruse it, because there was something in it which she was not apprized of. "Mrs. P— (said he) perused the letter over and over, and told me, that you thought to frighten her daughter into a marriage. She never will marry him, nor any one else, if she takes my advice; and I have told you before, that I had rather she should be Parry's whore, than his wife. I have nothing to say as to that, said Mr. S— to her, but pray, madam, how

how could you take your only child by the hair of her head, holding a penknife to her breast, threatening to stab her instantly, if she did not swear to you, that she never was, nor never would be married to Mr. Parry. "Who told you so? (says Mrs. P— in a surprise.)" "Mr. S— informed her, that I mentioned it publickly." "Why then (said she) the devil, and only him must tell him; because there was no person in the room but my daughter and myself when the thing happened." "I would advise you, madam (said he) to drop the prosecution; you can do no more than imprison him for some time, which he thinks light of; but it is in his power to salve, or ruin your daughter's character irrevocably." "I am resolved (said she) to shew him no mercy, but will ruin him, if there was no more men living. Mr. C—ke, of the Hill, has undertaken to manage the prosecution against him for me, and has already sent to Worcester for advice. My son-in-law is resolved to sue him; and accordingly has consulted with the most learned counsellors in London how to manage him. I will warrant you, Mr. S—, we shall make him know himself.

After Mr. S— had acquainted me with what had past between Mrs. P— and him; I asked him, if he had delivered the letter to Parthenissa. "Yes, yes, said he, but not before I had informed Mrs. P— that I had such a thing. She desired to see it, promising to return it me again. I gave it

to her, and she pulled out a piece of paper, wherein was an alphabet of characters that she had sent for from the Hill, to see if they were the same sort that miss J—y C—ke had taught Parthenissa. She poared near half an hour in your letter; then gave it me, and I went into the garden, and gave it into miss's hands, who after she had looked it over, put it into her pocket, and told me, but looked another way, that Mr. Parry was out of his senses, and there was nothing in what he had said.” “ Egad, madam, says Mr. S—— to miss, if he his out of his senses, 'tis you that have caused it. As for my part, you young dog, says he to me, I believe sincerely, that you have been upon her mount of Venus, and in the valley beneath it; so that if you have some trouble from the family, you have had a spring of pleasure in it. After sweet meat, comes sour sauce; so you must have patience. But I shall never forget the other day, when you told me, of an inscription that was upon the gates of Phillipsburgh, after it had been taken by the French, in Lewis XIV's time, from the Germans, viz. “ What the Germans shut, the French open.” “ What of that, Sir?” (said I.) “ What of that, Sir (replied Mr. S—— smiling) why, you told me, not long ago, that you had opened a fortress, that no king could shut, excepting the king of terrors; and now we have found out where this mighty place lies.”

End of the FIRST VOLUME,